OSWESTRY & BORDER
CHRONICLE

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Oswestry
Pictures at an exhibition for shoppers
Page 2

Welshpool
Group makes new show for BBC channel
Page 11

Property
Best homes currently on the market
Page 23-26

CALLS TO BLOCK NEW HOMES BID

PARISH councillors who are stepping up plans to block the building of 64 houses at Morda have called a public meeting this weekend.

Following last week's announcement that objectors had convinced developers to reduce the proposal from 85 to 64 homes Oswestry Rural Parish Council wants the scheme thrown out completely.

Plans to build in the village have been scaled back by more than 20 houses after objections from residents living alongside the development – but applicants David Wilson Homes has now submitted a full planning application to Shropshire Council to build 64 new homes on the land, which is next to Morda Bank, Oswestry.

by Graham Breeze

The builders have pledged to keep half of the 7.7-acre site undeveloped as public open space.

But rural parish councillors remain completely opposed to the plans and have called a public meeting on Saturday to gauge feelings of the villagers.

Councillor Tony Cheetham said: "We have objected to this development as a whole. It's not just the size of the proposal it's the principle as well."

Mr Cheetham, councillor for Trefonen and Treflach, is now urging Morda villagers to attend the drop-in meeting at Oswestry Cricket Club between 10am and 3pm.

"We will have all the information available about the size and impact that this development will have on the village and it is vital that everyone attends the meeting.

"As a council we need to gauge the feelings of those living in Morda.

Joining

"Oswestry Rural Parish Council is strongly opposed and has lodged objections with Shropshire Council.

"This scheme is much bigger than people imagine and if given permission will lead to the joining of Morda with Oswestry."

David Wilson Homes presented its preliminary plans in September and after a period of consultation with residents, the company revised its plans, reducing the number of homes from 85 to 64 and included more open space.

Jon Rowson, planning manager at David Wilson Homes, said: "Following a review of the community feedback, we significantly reduced the number of homes proposed, which has resulted in a more spacious development, with additional landscaping, whilst also reducing the traffic to the site.

"The site has been identified as suitable to deliver much-needed new homes and our plans only propose to develop approximately half of the site.

"This will ensure the physical separation between Morda and Oswestry is safeguarded and retained in perpetuity."

Church is packed as town pays tribute

Mary Bunner

THERE was standing room only at the parish church in Montgomery as people paid their respects to one of the town's best loved characters.

Mary Bunner, who died on December 28 at the age of 101, was remembered on Friday in a service in St Nicholas Church, where she had been a churchwarden.

She took over the running of the family ironmonger's shop, RH Bunners, in 1953, after the death of her husband, Alan. Over the next 60 years she kept the business open while bringing up her daughters, Mary and Ann.

They now run the shop, which has become a tourist attraction because its interior has changed so little since it opened in 1892.

RH Bunners has been described as an Aladdin's Cave of traditional ironmongery items, and some have compared it to the shop seen in the Two Ronnies' four candles sketch.

Customers can still buy a single screw if that is all they need, but the shop also stocks everything from quad bikes to toys.

The service of remembrance was attended by 300 people, many of whom had to stand throughout.

● Store – See Page 14

Spotlight on council cuts

PEOPLE living in the Welshpool area will have their chance to discuss planned £20 million council cuts with officers at drop-in discussion sessions today (Thursday).

Representatives of Powys County Council will be at Welshpool Town Hall from 4.30pm to 7.30pm.

New leader brings back councillors

THREE axed councillors have been reinstated by the new leader of Powys County Council as part of his new nine-strong cabinet.

A political battle at the independent-run council led to leader David Jones being ousted in a vote of no confidence on Friday with former council chairman Barry Thomas succeeding him.

He has brought back Myfanwy Alexander, Graham Brown and Garry Banks, who were sacked by Mr Jones after they defected with others to form the Independent Group (IG) led by Mr Brown.

A no confidence motion in Mr Jones' leadership was launched by Mr Brown and Ms Alexander in the wake of Mr Jones's decision to join the Powys Independent Alliance (PIA) in December, which until Friday held all 10 cabinet posts.

Ms Alexander, Mr Brown and Rosemarie Harris will serve as Mr Thomas's deputies.

The new cabinet includes five members of the IG and three of the Non-Political Group which includes council leader, Mr Thomas.

"For the first time ever I will be working with a leadership team comprising of Myfanwy Alexander, Graham Brown and Rosemarie Harris – all deputy leaders," said Mr Thomas.

● Ousted – See Page 2

Food has a local flavour

Caroline Lane takes a bite of the steak and ale pie watched by, from left, Derek Jones from the Barley Mow and Offa's Dyke Brewery and Battams the Butchers proprietor Kevin Battam and wife Jo.

TWO businesses have joined forces to create a steak and ale pie from food produced on the doorstep.

Staff at Battams Butchers in Beatrice Street Oswestry have created the pie with beef from local farmers and the Grim Reaper Ale, made at the Offa's Dyke Brewery in the nearby village of Trefonen.

Although his recipe is a secret, butcher, Kevin Battams said it was all cooked on site.

"Our beef comes from no more than 10 miles away and the meat is cooked and the pastry made on our premises," he said. "Adding the Offa Dyke ale really has given a kick to the taste."

The businesses are benefiting from consumers who want to eat and drink local produce. Mr Battams said: "We have seen an increase in customers and lots of new faces in the shop since the food scares of last year.

"People want to know where their meat is from and are appreciating quality."

Council to help CCTV with £10k injection

A £10,000 INJECTION of cash to save Oswestry's crime-busting CCTV system will be made by Oswestry Town Council.

The future of the town centre cameras, paid for by the council just over a decade ago, have been threatened because of lack of cash and the ageing system.

On Monday night councillors agreed to put an extra £10,000 into the CCTV budget on top of its annual £7,500 contribution to its running costs.

Now the council will have talks with West Mercia Police to look at bringing the system, the largest volunteer run CCTV initiative in the country, up-to-date.

Shropshire Council has indicated it may not fund its share this year.

Town clerk David Preston said: "The system is now outdated and costly to run but its widespread benefit is acknowledged throughout the town."

At the budget meeting, councillors voted 12 to four to increase its precept to council tax payers by three per cent.

It means band D residents will pay £69.92 a year, compared to £67.88 last year and giving the town council an extra £6,835.

A change in how the precept is handed to the town council is likely to mean the loss of about £45,000 a year.

Police will cost more

A WEEK after announcing 118 jobs will go, residents are being told they will have to stump up an extra 2.1 per cent annually to Dyfed-Powys Police.

If approved, the increase will be added to council tax bills in the next financial year resulting in a precept at council tax band D of £210.60 – up from £206.28.

Crime Commissioner Christopher Salmon said: "My precept proposal balances the needs of families with the needs of our police service."

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CONTENTS

Comment	6
Letters	7
Welshpool	10, 11
Property	23-26
Woman of Substance	34
Nostalgia	35
Wildside	37
Arts	38
Sport	46-48

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Council leader is ousted in vote of no confidence

by Pam Kingsley

THE leader of Powys County Council has been ousted in a vote of no confidence.

Councillor David Jones was forced to stand down during an extraordinary meeting in Llandrindod Wells on Friday.

He has been replaced by former council chairman Barry Thomas, from Llangyniew near Welshpool.

The decision came after claims that Councillor Jones made decisions that his party hadn't agreed to and fired members of his cabinet by e-mail.

David Jones

The council, which is facing budget cuts of £40 million over three years and faces the loss of 300 staff, has a history of being controlled by independents, but Mr Jones wanted to bring in a coalition.

Barry Thomas

Transparent

Last November he axed three councillors who opposed the move and formed a new cabinet with another independent group before Friday's challenge.

The no confidence motion was proposed by Councillor Graham Brown, from Llandrinio on the Shropshire border. Councillor Brown said: "He had gone against the wishes of his own group. Three times we decided not to go into coalition and he decided that we were going to. I'm hoping that from now on we will have a far more open and transparent leadership where we can move forward together."

Before yesterday's vote, Mr Jones, from Guilsfield, near Welshpool, said he had received a lot of support from members when he became leader.

He also admitted that in hindsight he could have taken steps to strengthen the cabinet last year.

But members were unimpressed, passing the motion of no confidence in his leadership by 40 votes to 32.

New leader Councillor Barry Thomas is a member of the six-strong, non-political group. He has dissolved the 10-strong cabinet and will appoint his new team on Wednesday.

Shoppers can view artists' work

Willow Gallery manager Anthony Smith with a painting by artist Sue Humphries.

ARTISTS from the Oswestry area and beyond have been exhibiting in the town's Willow Gallery, giving shoppers a chance to see their work.

More than 160 paintings of all mediums have been on display and for sale at the gallery in Willow Street. It is the first time that the society has exhibited in the gallery.

Spokeswoman Carol James said the society had regular exhibitions in the town's Memorial Hall which were always popular. It has also taken members' work to Chirk Castle recently for a prestigious showing of the work.

All artists are welcome to join the Oswestry and District Society of Artists which meets regularly throughout the year.

The group holds workshops and talks on a variety of subjects on specific Wednesdays in the Memorial Hall, Oswestry, at 7.30pm with workshops on specific Saturdays at Eastern Oswestry Community from 10am to 3pm.

Villagers' castaway panto has eco theme

A VILLAGE pantomime has joined forces with an environmental campaign to raise awareness of the unique meres and mosses of north Shropshire.

Welshampton Bonfire Committee is staging its latest pantomime – *Pirates Ahoy!* – on February 7, 8 and 9 in the village hall.

It features a long-lost family stranded on the island in the middle of The Mere at Ellesmere. They protect the sacred herons who live there from pirates threatening to invade.

Highlights will include a theatrical pirate ship and herons roosting in tree top nests.

Organisers promise fun for all the family in a traditional panto. But the production is also helping raise awareness of the special landscape of the area and its threatened wildlife.

The pantomime organisers have been supported by the Meres and Mosses Landscape Partnership.

Committee secretary Richard Jones, who has written the pantomime, said The Mere and Moscow Island, where the herons nest, had been a natural setting for a tale of pirates and adventure.

"The sacred herons were already an important part of the plot, so we were delighted to link them with the work of the Meres and Mosses partnership.

"It doesn't all have to be deadly serious – our herons will be preening ready for their TV appearances in Heronwatch on February 15 and 16 at The Boathouse in Ellesmere," he said.

The pantomime takes place at Welshampton Parish Hall with evening performances on February 7 and 8 and matinees on February 8 and 9. Tickets are £6 and £4 from 01948 710602, 710472 or 710740 or visit the village website **www.welshampton.net**

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NEWS

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Students to go on safaris in course

COLLEGE students could soon be jetting off to a national park in Zambia to take part in safaris and river cruises as part of their studies.

The trips will be organised by Walford & North Shropshire College as part of the level 3 animal management and the foundation degree in animal science with animal health management courses.

Last month Rupert Hill, deputy head of faculty and head of the animal management department at the college, visited Northern Zambia to set up the study tour.

During his visit he spent time with the Kasanka Trust, which oversees the Kasanka National Park, the 1,500 square km Lavushi Manda and the adjacent Bangweulu wetlands.

Mr Hill said: "The aim of this study tour is for the students to research the rich variety of habitats, undertake conservation work and get involved in community projects.

"The tour will involve day and night safaris and river expeditions, and the experience will be valuable for the students in future job opportunities and progression into higher education."

The foundation degree is a new course for the college. The first intake of students will be in September.

Quiz team win first round tie

A TEAM from Welshpool Rotary Club are through to the second round of the Rotary District Quiz after beating Newtown 60-52.

The Welshpool team of Dennis Duggan, Roger Eagles, Peter Hodgson and Ewen MacLeod travelled to Newtown for a close-fought match at The Elephant & Castle.

Deadline is approaching for business awards

JUST two weeks remain for businesses to get their entries in for the *Shropshire Star* Excellence in Business Awards.

Taking place for the first time this year, the awards will be dished out at a glittering gala ceremony at RAF Museum Cosford on April 3.

And with the deadline for entries closing in on January 28, businesses are being urged to act now and ensure they have the chance to play a part in the big night.

There will be seven categories up for grabs at the big awards night, including the prestigious Excellence in Learning and Skills, sponsored by TCAT, which is open to training providers as well as businesses which have strong training and apprenticeship programmes in place.

The Excellence in Manufacturing Award, sponsored by Lloyds Bank, is also set to be a close-fought battle, and companies from the manufacturing sector – whether food businesses or those involved in heavy industry – may wish to throw their hats into the ring.

Shropshire Star promotions manager Viv Birch, said: "We are approaching the final furlongs in the race to be a part of what will be a wonderful occasion on April 3.

"There's just two short weeks left for businesses to submit their entries, and to ensure they are part of what will be a true celebration of the breadth and depth of Shropshire business."

Other categories up for grabs include the Young Business of the Year award, sponsored by Greenhous, the DB Roberts-backed Small Business of the Year, Customer Champion sponsored by Precision Colour Printing, and the Excellence in Innovation award sponsored by Elite Precast Concrete.

The *Shropshire Star* is supporting the showpiece Business of the Year category in its 50th anniversary year. The University of Wolverhampton is sponsoring the drinks reception. Remember you need to register your interest first. For full details, and to submit an entry, visit **www.shropshire-eiba.co.uk**. If you have any queries, contact the events team on 01902 319360.

Teenager in supply of drugs locked up

A WELSHPOOL teenager has been locked up for two years for supplying drugs across Mid Wales with the help of two others.

Sam Williams, 19, of Grungrog Hill, Welshpool, admitted being concerned in the supply of cocaine and cannabis and received a two-year youth custody sentence.

Ashley-Joe Pedrini, 18, and Huw Gwyn Jones, 19, received suspended sentences for being concerned in the supply of cannabis.

Judge Niclas Parry, sitting at Mold Crown Court on Tuesday, said they had been selling drugs on a commercial basis in Mid Wales.

"Quite simply, you were taking a chance to profit at the expense of the health and safety of particularly young people in your community," he told them.

Pedrini, of High Street, Welshpool, received a 12-month sentence suspended for 18 months after admitted being concerned in the supply of cannabis and possessing the drug with intent to supply.

He was ordered to do 300 hours unpaid work, be tagged at home for two months between 6.30pm and 6am and pay £560 costs.

Jones, of Cae Robert, Meifod, admitted supplying and possessing cannabis and he received a 10-month suspended sentence. He was also tagged, ordered to pay costs and carry out 200 hours unpaid work.

Prayer week to start on Sunday

A WEEK of prayer for Christian Unity will be held in churches around Oswestry, from Sunday.

The week has been organised by Churches Together in Oswestry District and will include lunchtime meetings every day.

Guide names school as one of the best in the country

AN Oswestry school has been named one of the best in the country after being featured in the independent Good Schools Guide.

Moreton Hall School in Weston Rhyn was praised by reviewers for its academic results, entrepreneurship, inspiration to students and the general atmosphere on the school grounds.

The book says: "It is outside the radar of parents who don't look beyond the home counties but more fool them – they are the ones missing out here. We felt that every girl in England should have at least a term in this environment." The guide praised the leadership of principal Jonathan Forster for being "always ahead of the game, ensuring the school leads not follows market demands".

Mr Forster said he was delighted with the review, which was carried out in a similar style to an Ofsted inspection.

"It's great. I've been here for 21 years and it's the kind of thing that you hope for for your school and it truly is a team effort," he said.

"The people who do the review are retired heads so they know what they're looking for. They spoke to past and current pupils, parents and staff, they went around the school for half a day and spoke to me.

"It's quite an accolade to be in the book because you wouldn't be there if you weren't doing well. It's jolly nice to be recognised, but the moment you get this the pressure's on to get another one next time."

In the Good Schools Guide review, the reviewer spoke to a member of staff who said: "These are not privileged princesses who think the world owes them. They are self-disciplined young women who have learnt in school that you can make a difference and live happily together."

The review says that the school works hard to increase means tested bursaries, particularly to allow local girls from state schools to join the sixth form.

The principal of Moreton Hall near Oswestry Jonathan Forster with students Lara Tapp and Selina Schoelles looking at the entry in the The Good Schools Guide.

by Pam Kingsley

Patients will get reminder

PEOPLE booking outpatient treatments across the Welsh border will get a reminder in a bid to reduce missed appointments.

Officials at Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, which runs Wrexham Maelor Hospital, have launched a new reminder service so that patients will receive a phone call a week before the appointment.

Rachel Whitehall, assistant director planned care at the board, said: "We know that people lead busy lives and it's easy to forget planned outpatient appointments. This new service will ensure that patients receive a message straight to their mobile phone by text or their landline via an automated message seven days before their planned appointment then another reminder the day before their appointment.

"About 50,000 people miss their hospital appointment every year"she added.

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Cat's eye clip could have caused rider to crash bike

by Graham Breeze

A BANK holiday motorcycle trip ended in tragedy when a rider lost control of his machine and hit an oncoming ice cream van.

Stephen Conde, 47, from Greyfriars, Oswestry, may have hit a cat's eye while overtaking before the accident on the A49, just south of Dorrington on August 2.

He was thrown from his 750 cc machine into the path of the van and suffered multiple injuries. He died in the University Hospital, North Staffs.

Coroner John Ellery recorded a verdict of accidental death at an inquest at the Guildhall, Shrewsbury on Tuesday.

Mr Conde, an experienced motorcyclist who had been riding for 30 years, had been travelling from Whitchurch to Leominster on a day trip with his partner and their two friends.

Stephen Conde

One of the riders, Mr Graham Jones, said Mr Conde overtook a car and then started to overtake another.

"His bike suddenly twitched and Steve braked. The back of the bike locked up and he came off his bike.

"He was propelled, diagonally into the ice-cream van," Mr Jones said.

"I am certain he clipped a cat's eye."

Mr Jones told the inquest that following Mr Conde's death he had heard from several motorcyclists who had problems with the type of cat's eye on the A49, which are solid dome shaped glass ones rather than those that sunk into the road.

Van driver Zamir Ahmed, said he braked and was moving over to the side of the road when the collision occurred.

Police accident investigation officer, Constable Neil Williams, said it was possible that the bike had clipped the cat's eye.

However he said: "I believe it is likely to have been rider misjudgement or that he didn't see oncoming traffic."

Mr Ellery said that there was no evidence that anything Mr Ahmed did played any part in the accident.

"This should have been a ride on a lovely sunny day out.

"Sadly it went tragically wrong," he said.

Help to kick smoking habit

Brothers Mark and Ryan Meyers whose father Craig Mayers has opened a new quit smoking cigarette shop in Oswesty.

A WINDOW cleaner has hung up his bucket to start a shop supplying electronic cigarettes.

Craig Meyers smoked 30 cigarettes a day for 20 years, but managed to quit in just two days using electronic substitutes.

Thinking others might want to do the same, he decided to set up a business, Vapes All, in Albion Hill, Oswestry. He said: "It all started off when a few friends wanted one, and then their friends and families wanted one and within two months of that I was selling enough to quit my job and get the shop. It went from me buying one to picking up a full-time job in a matter of months."

Such has been the demand that he has now opened a second shop in Llangollen.

The father-of-two said he was unhappy in his old job and selling e-cigarettes provided the perfect way out.

Group holding prayers for Israel

THE Oswestry Prayer for Israel group will meet on February 7.

The meeting at at Hope Church in Laburnum Drive, Oswestry, will start at 7.30pm. For more information call Wendy Scott on (01691) 622266.

WE NEED YOUR SPOONS
For the URI GELLER Spoon gorilla

The British Ironwork Centre in Oswestry Shropshire has been challenged to create a enormous 12 ft gorilla statue from old spoons.

Uri Geller famous TV personality and mystifier who opens his gardens to charity five times a year, has asked the Ironwork Centre to create a monstrous gorilla sculpture from a mixture of iron & spoons from members of the public.

Mr Geller has said: "I use the sculptures in my garden to inspire poorly children. I am not a healer, but when children see the items I have, they are in awe." "I think it helps them to think positively."

Tickets will be available for the unveiling on the 17th May 2014 at the British Ironwork Centre open day, whereby Uri will officially reveal the sculpture for the nation's media crews.

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NEWS

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Careers initiative to attract engineers

A MAJOR initiative to get more young people to take up careers in engineering is being launched in Mid Wales.

Semta, the employer-led organisation responsible for developing engineering skills for the future, has joined forces with the Welsh Government to target employers, parents, teachers and the young people themselves.

This programme is entitled I aM aN Engineer, which is designed to Inspire, Motivate, Nurture. Semta will be working with schools, colleges, employers, training bodies, universities and Careers Wales to provide facts, insight and practical advice about a career in engineering to help avoid a skills crisis in the country.

Mid Wales Manufacturing Group (MWMG) will be delivering the project in Mid Wales to help address some of the skill shortages amongst manufacturing and engineering companies.

Ceri Stephens, MWMG's group manager, said: "Manufacturing and engineering in Mid Wales employs over 8,000 people and is the third largest sector in the region after agriculture and tourism."

See **http://www.mwmg.org/en/skills-events-5412.html** or call (01686) 628778 or e-mail **ceri@mwmg.org**

Fundraiser asking for old CDs instead of cash

Ian Davies, from Oswestry, is asking for donations of CDs and DVDs, to support his effort to swim the English Channel in July.

A FUNDRAISING swimmer is calling on people to have a clear-out of their unwanted DVDs, CDs and games to help in his latest money-spinning challenge.

Ian Davies from Oswestry is planning to take part in a relay swim of the English Channel in July in aid of spinal injuries charity Aspire.

And rather than asking for cash donations towards his £2,000 target he has set up a network of collection boxes around Oswestry for DVDs, CDs and games.

by Iain St John

Mr Davies, 53, said the items would be sold, with the proceeds going to Aspire.

Collection boxes are available at Mr Davies's home at Upper Well Close, Oswestry, as well as the Upstairs Downstairs store in Leg Street and at Oswestry Leisure Centre.

Different

Mr Davies said: "I thought rather than just asking for sponsorship money I could come up with something different.

"Many people will have had CDs and DVDs for Christmas so this is a chance for them to get rid of something they don't want and help a good cause."

Mr Davies swam the Solent last year for Aspire and is in training already to take on the English Channel on July 1, leaving from Dover.

He said: "Where we actually land depends on the decision of the pilot on our support boat who will be looking at tides and currents and such like.

"It will be hard but we will be doing it in a relay system. There are six in our team and we all have to swim at least twice for an hour. I am fully expecting to swim at least four to six miles.

"It is a really busy shipping channel so you have to have your wits about you and expect a bit of choppy water as the ships pass."

The Oswestry grandfather said he had chosen to support Aspire for a variety of reasons.

Mr Davies, who works for the Prince's Trust as a development tutor, said: "Obviously our orthopaedic hospital at Gobowen does a lot for spinal patients and I am ex-services and lot of guys are helped by Aspire.

"I hope many people will drop off DVDs and CDs."

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FEATURES AND COMMENT

01691 668094

BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

MEMBERS of Powys County Council were elected to serve their constituents but instead they have been playing an expensive political game.

The county had always managed to keep politics off the agenda until the new cabinet system was adopted but since then unsavoury things have been simmering under the surface.

Infighting has become evident and as a result senior councillors lost their jobs, though some were reinstated, and now the leader, David Jones, has been sacked and dispatched to the back benches.

My understanding of the situation is that the ruling group were the Shires' Independents with opposition from Powys Independents while there were also Tory, Lib Dem and Labour groups as well.

By Christmas, the Shires were a thing of the past and council leader David Jones had transferred himself to Powys Independents and sacked three of his former team from cabinet roles.

Now he's gone too and there's a new Powys Independent Alliance group in charge with Barry Thomas as leader and the three sacked cabinet members are back again.

The situation is a mess and has damaged the perception of the council as a governing body.

I'm a firm believer in keeping politics out of local government but it is obvious that many county councillors were elected with a political ticket, whether they declared it or not.

Powys council is facing budget cuts of £40 million over the next three years and the loss of 300 staff.

The important thing is that our elected councillors concentrate on the job in hand and put the bickering and all their personal agendas to one side.

Council elections are a long way off yet but if the current councillors think the public will forget the way they have behaved they'd better think again.

❑❑❑❑

I'M NO prude but get my name down on any campaign to get Celebrity Big Brother removed from our TV screens.

I was unfortunate enough to flick onto the Channel 5 reality show this week and find 18 certificate scenes, sexism and homophobia on display.

Ofcom has been inundated with complaints about the scenes which were engineered by the producers in a bid to improve sagging ratings.

This trashy reality show has long passed its sell-by date and should be dispatched for ever to the cutting room floor.

At the Veterinary Tissue Bank near Chirk, Scientist Chris Sharp takes a look at some cells. *Pictures: Peter Flemmich.*

Yvonne Tomlinson, who has two dogs and two cats, has signed up to the donor card scheme.

Cutting-edge research thanks to donor pets

Pioneering animal stem cell research is taking place on the Shropshire border. Sue Austin investigates

FROM the outside it is just another building - but inside this brick barn on the Shropshire border is one of only two laboratories in the world undertaking pioneering animal stem cell research.

Scientists at the Veterinary Tissue Bank at Bryn Kinalt, near Chirk, have started carrying out the work in recent months alongside the tissue growth research which they have been doing since the centre opened about four years ago.

Appealed

Three animals have been helped in recent months due to stem cell research on live animals, which being carried out to help pets with conditions such as arthritis.

Vets Peter Myint and John Innes, who set up the tissue bank, have appealed for pet owners to agree to allow their animals to be donors when they die to help other creatures still alive. They have claimed tissue cells from one animal could help up to 50 others.

Under the scheme pet owners will be given a tissue donor card for their pet cats or dogs – much like organ donor cards which humans carry with them.

Inside the lab there is not an animal in sight. Samples of tissue are stored in containers and work is carried out in safe and sterile conditions.

Chris Sharp places the cells into a incubating shaker for digesting fat tissue to isolate the stem cells.

Mr Myint said: "This is pretty pioneering stuff.

"We have now helped our third animal and things are going very well."

He said that the vet takes a small sample of fat from the affected animal and sends it to the laboratory.

"We isolate stem cells and then expand them until there are about five to 10 million," he said. "They are then sent back to the vet who will use them in an operation."

Mr Myint said that the procedure sees stem cells injected into the affected site.

Mr Myint, who worked as a vet for 20 years before going into research, said that the centre had been carrying out work into tissue growth since it opened.

He added tissue cells from one animal could help up to 50 living animals.

Mr Myint, who lives in Chirk, said: "We could see that this was something that would be needed more and more.

"We work with vets providing the tissue and stem cells to help dogs and cats who suffer from injuries and have arthritis."

He said the vast majority of the work is to help those animals who have broken bones and need bone grafts but more donors would mean more operations could be carried out.

"It is a difficult subject to broach with pet owners and, just as there are never enough human organs available to help those in need, we run out of tissue samples," said Mr Myint.

"But if people sign up we also inform their vet and so when their animal passes away it is not so difficult.

"We work under strict ethical guidelines.

"Samples can only be taken under an owner's written consent and there is not money involved. We don't charge and we don't buy tissue."

Anyone interested in the tissue bank can get in touch by visiting **www.vtbank.org**

CHART TOPPERS RAY SPILLER

Over 50 years ago the music charts started and we look back at the charts on this week, six, 16, 26, 36 and 46 years ago.

SIX YEARS AGO…2008

X Factor winner Leon Jackson got the last number one record of 2007 with When You Believe. The song was also top of the charts for the first couple of weeks in 2008, totting up three weeks in all. Leon had just won the show so that pretty much guaranteed him number one success. The single was also the third best-selling record of the year. His second single Don't Call This Love went to number three in the charts.

SIXTEEN YEARS AGO…1998

The Spice Girls had 10 top 20 hits with nine reaching number one. One of those, Too Much held the top spot for two weeks. The all-girl band broke up in 2000. But they reformed in 2007 and went on a world tour playing concerts to packed audiences. They appeared together in 2012 to promote the new West End show of their career, Viva Forever. However, sales were poor and the show was cancelled.

TWENTY SIX YEARS AGO…1988

The Pet Shop Boys got the Christmas number one in 1987 with Always On My Mind. It held the top spot for four weeks including the first two weeks of 1988. The duo had four number ones, with two in 1988 including this one. The song is also associated with Brenda Lee and later, Elvis Presley. The King managed a top 10 place with the song in 1973.

THIRTY SIX YEARS AGO…1978

The longest spell at number one in 1977 was Wings, featuring Sir Paul McCartney, with Mull of Kintyre. It held the spot for nine weeks although it was not the year's best seller. The record was still at number one through January 1978. The richest man in British music, Sir Paul has had four number one records without The Beatles. His last number one was in 1989.

FORTY SIX YEARS AGO…1968

For seven weeks in 1967 The Beatles held the top spot in the UK and US with Hello Goodbye. This was their 13th number one – they would have another four during 1968/69. The Beatles, who were awarded MBEs in 1965, have sold about one billion records worldwide.

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LETTERS

01691 668094

Memories of life on dairy farm in 1947

DURING the harsh winter of 1947 I was in the Land Army on a dairy farm near Welshpool, where we hand washed, filled, and delivered nearly two thousand bottles every day.

The dairy was a purpose-built building with two main rooms, a bottle room, a boiler room, and also a room that housed the engine which provided electricity for the house and farm.

There was a water tap just inside one door which we left running all night in hard weather, to prevent the pipes from freezing. This meant that we had to spend the first hour carrying hot water from the house so that we could open the door to get into the dairy. I think there were three vans going out on rounds, and their first delivery was bottled the night before.

They were always much longer on the rounds in freezing weather, and they often couldn't find the empties left out in the snow.

This meant we often ran short of bottles for the second delivery, and had to wash the bottles from the first delivery, as our store of bottles was not large.

The milk was bottled by hand with a machine with two levers which passed the bottles two at a time up to the tank, which held about 10 gallons. The bottles were then put on a small wooden table with a slight rise in the middle, this meant we could only top two rows of bottles at a time, any more would fall off and smash on the floor.

The vans sometimes didn't get back after the second delivery until after we finished for the day.

The van drivers were very good in picking up prescriptions, papers, and sometimes food, for outlying places.

There was not much work for the farm workers except for looking over the stock, so they used to go out one to each van, with a shovel for the snowdrifts.

MARY HABBERLEY
Guilsfield

Badger damage to wildlife ignored

I WATCHED the BBC's Countryfile about the disappearance of some of our wildlife.

First they talked about the red squirrel, they said they 'controlled' the greys. I control my dog but I don't think you could control grey squirrels in the same way.

No, I think they mean they kill them but they haven't got the courage to say that. But the thing that struck me was they never mentioned the poor hedgehog. I wonder why?

Could it be that they know that it is the stubborn stance on protecting badgers that has caused this.

I'm sorry for repeating myself but every country person I talk to says the same thing – badgers have wiped out curlews, lapwings, hedgehogs, field mice etc. and no one seems to care.

Also they said that the one success they have had is the red kite.

Well, I wouldn't argue with that. But many of us think it will be the badger story all over again.

And as for bringing back the lynx? Well, what do you think?

G ROBERTS
Clun

Can you help solve this mystery?

THIS year sees the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War, so in a nod towards the anniversary here is a trio of Oswestry soldiers from that period. The only trouble is, we have no idea who they are, nor has Barbara Marshall, of Broughton, near Chester, for whom it was an old family photo handed down to her. She was doing her family history and said nobody in the family could identify them. It's the longest of long shots after 100 years . . . but can you identify them?

Reflecting on what was hard year here

INCREDIBLE as it may seem, the new year is upon us once again, with its mix of public and private reflections on the past 12 months and on the times to come.

I suspect readers will already be speculating on what 2014 will mean for themselves, family, friends and neighbours.

Last year once again proved to be a challenging one in communities across Powys and the Marches.

We continue to face difficult times as a nation and locally too the year has had its share of highs and lows.

It is less than two months since towns and villages came together at their war memorials in solemn remembrance of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The trenches of World War One are etched in our collective awareness, but, as we enter the year which marks the centenary of that conflict beginning, we would do well to recall the words of Harry Patch, the last fighting Tommy.

Horrors

Harry warned against the dangers of glamourising warfare. He knew its true horrors but died sure in the knowledge that, while our planet is still strife riven, war on our own continent had been made unthinkable by shared membership of the European Union and NATO.

Meanwhile, the financial climate has remained difficult and communities across the county are braced for further bad news in terms of local services and facilities under threat.

As a result of funding reductions to county councils, I know that town and community councils across Powys – and in Shropshire – will increasingly be feeling the weight of expectation to take on certain services and to precept for them.

The most recent discussion, as communities across Powys know only too well, has been with respect to public toilets.

While this particular policy is now being reviewed, I nevertheless know how seriously those involved in town and community councils take their responsibilities – and wish my colleagues on both sides of the border all the best in the decisions that lie ahead.

WILLIAM POWELL
Welsh Liberal Democrat Assembly Member for Mid and West Wales

Usury is ungodly

THE worst thing about credit cards is they start at a lower rate, then the interest rates rises.

Loans are pushed on TV, in supermarkets and newspapers, as well as in banks, without checking whether they can be paid back.

Usury is rife and an is ungodly concept. Let's make 2014 a better society for everyone with this positive money movement. Interest rates should be capped.

JANET and MARK
NORWOOD
Oswestry

Turbines generate cash

I HAVE just discovered that, although agricultural land may be free of business rates, windmill generators are deemed to be a business, so the council receives extra income from these unwelcome things from the farmer.

But, of course, it's not the farmer paying the money, it's us poor suckers, via our electricity bills, paying huge subsidies and business rates too.

A J ASTLEY
Ellesmere

LETTERS to the Editor

POST Readers' Letters, Oswestry Chronicle, Ketley, Telford TF1 5HU

FAX 01952 254605

E-MAIL letters@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters

Is nativity scene too Christian a symbol?

THE humble nativity scene that stood beneath the Christmas tree in Festival Square, Oswestry, has been missing for the last two years. When I enquired at The Guildhall I was told it was in storage as it was damaged. I offered our services to repair it but this was met with a negative response.

Surely a small nod to the true meaning of Christmas is not so offensive that it needs discarding in favour of twinkly lights, banners, reindeer and Father Christmas?

As a nation supporting equal rights, diversity and a multicultural society why is it that we learn about and celebrate other faiths yet it is increasingly berated as being non-inclusive to show symbols of Christianity at this time of year.

Do the people of Oswestry really want a winter festival or are we celebrating Christmas?

BELINDA JONES
Oswestry

Actions are better than easy words

WORDS come easily, but actions are what matters
We say things in haste, or when our life is in tatters
However the important thing you must maintain
Is to always speak your mind, or you'll go insane

You can't turn the clock back, what's done is done
So march forward, stop feeling sad and glum
To those you say sorry, if are truly your friend
Unperturbed with your actions, will make amends

Life is too short, and the years whiz by
Tis far better to be happy, than to cry
Start off in life, as you intend to pursue
You'll find life in return will be good to you

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WHAT IF MY HUSBAND TRIES TO HIDE SOME OF HIS ASSETS WHEN I DIVORCE HIM?
Q: I have been unhappy in my marriage for many years due to my husbandâ€™s philandering, but I have stayed with it because he owns a very successful business that gives us a comfortable lifestyle and a good social life. However, as I become older I find I am less tolerant of his affairs and think I would like to get a divorce and start again before it is too late. What concerns me is that my husband may try to play down his success and hide the financial evidence. As he has always handled our finances I probably would not even know. What should I do?
A: During the divorce process both you and your husband will be required to produce full and honest statements setting out your financial positions. When these statements are exchanged your Solicitor will scrutinise your husbandâ€™s statement and look for anything that suggests funds may have been hidden. If your Solicitor believes there is a need, he or she can request that the court ask for a realistic and reasonable quantification of your husbandâ€™s funds.
The court will then look at the scale of your husbandâ€™s business activities and lifestyle in comparison with the funds he has disclosed. If necessary the opinion of a forensic accountant can be sought. Based on their findings the court will estimate what they believe to be the real value of your husbandâ€™s funds and make an award that is cost proportionate to the determined asset value.
There is no set formula when it comes to the court working out how the financial settlement is split. Usually the court takes a â€˜needs and resourcesâ€™ approach but if your husband is found to have been concealing funds the court is likely to take a very dim view and their decision may reflect that.
Further information relating to this question is available from Alison Monaghan, a Solicitor with GHP Legal.
For information relating to any other legal matter please call GHP Legal on 01691 659194 or visit www.ghplegal.co.uk.
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NEWS

01691 668094

Clothes donations shipped out to Syrian war refugees

A FORMER GP has thanked people for their support after shipping out 16 bags of socks and vests to Syrian refugees, all donated by people in the Oswestry area.

Sally Whipple, from Maesbrook, near Oswestry, put out an appeal for socks and vests to be distributed in the refugee camps before Christmas.

She had been tasked with collecting items of clothing to help the refugees survive the winter months, but had faced problems trying to send the items to where they were needed. However, last week she was able to team up with a charity which was happy to include the Shropshire donations in their aid distribution.

by Sue Austin

"After almost giving up I was pointed by Muslim Aid to a group of people collecting aid in south London," she said.

"I rang them on Tuesday evening and was told a container would be leaving the warehouse in south London on Wednesday evening, so Wednesday morning I loaded the 16 big bags of socks and things collected from the Oswestry area into my car and drove down there.

Inspiring

"What I saw was so inspiring. There were at least 100 young men, racing about sorting out aid to load into the container. It was the biggest collection of aid I have ever seen in my life. There were so delighted with the bags of aid donated by people from the Oswestry area and send their thanks. "

Dr Whipple, 61, said the donations will be delivered to Syrian refugees in Turkey.

She said she will continue to collect items. "There will be regular shipments to the region through a Muslim organisation, based in Leicester, which is doing invaluable work for the refugees," she said.

"The need for aid of all sorts remains urgent so I will continue to relay the generous gifts of clothes, but now I am also requesting non-perishable foodstuffs, dressing and lightweight medical equipment, baby food and small baby equipment."

For more information call (01691) 682213.

Police to recruit £19,000 officers

POLICE in Mid Wales are still recruiting officers despite having to tackle a £11.5 million budget cut.

Dyfed Powys Police has placed advertisements for officers in the local press, with starting salaries at more than £19,100.

The force revealed that it could cut up to 120 jobs over the next three years as it tries to reduce its budget.

The cuts, which could include 55 redundancies, will be made in the civilian workforce, which currently is 823-strong.

Top brass pledged to maintain and improve front line policing in Mid Wales and to attempt to lose posts through "natural wastage".

Senior officers say advertising for 30 officers shows the force is still committed to community policing.

Applicants will be required to stay within the force area and live 30 miles of their posting.

Vacancies are anticipated to be in north and south Powys as well as Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire.

The neighbouring West Mercia Police, which covers Shropshire, is facing cuts of £21.8 million between 2016 and 2019, on top of £20.1m which has been already imposed.

It is expected that the force will look at merging with Warwickshire police in 2016.

Photo chance with FA trophy

WREXHAM Football Club is helping Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital kick off the next stage of its fundraising appeal to build a state of the art £2 million bone cancer centre.

The club is to loan the FA Trophy to Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital for a fundraising event at the Plough Inn pub at Gresford today (Thursday).

The event will be a photo opportunity with a difference as for a small fee football fans will be able to have their picture taken with the FA Trophy.

The specialist hospital is in the final stages of a cash appeal to build the cancer centre at its site at Gobowen.

Since its launch 12 months ago, the appeal has now raised more than £195,000, with a further £75,000 in pledges, meaning it is over half way to the target of £500,000.

The FA Trophy photo opportunity event is between 6.30pm and 9pm at the Plough Inn, Chester Road, Gresford, Wrexham.

Panto cast prepare for show

From left Tony Pepper as Pepperoni, Liz Evans as Arachne the Spider and Bryan Evans as the Miller.

A DASHING hero, beautiful princess, clever cat and over-the-top dame will be donning colourful costumes, singing silly songs and telling terrible jokes for the next month as members of a village pantomime troupe perform their 35th show.

Children's tale Puss in Boots will be brought to life in Rhydycroesau Village Hall every Friday and Saturday until February 8 at 7.30pm with a matinee on January 26 at 2.30pm.

Jonathan Jones, a member of the troupe, said: "We're really looking forward to the show, which will be our 35th.

"We've got a cast of 20, all local people of all ages, and we've got some children who bring their parents along as well.

The show will be raising money for Nightingale House Children's Hospice in Wrexham. Tickets cost £4.50 adults and £2 children from Park Avenue Stores or by calling (01691) 718089 or 655998.

Brushing up public speaking is a laugh

YOUNGSTERS in Oswestry are being urged to become comics for the day.

A comedy workshop is to be staged in the town to give public speaking hints to youngsters in a fun and friendly way.

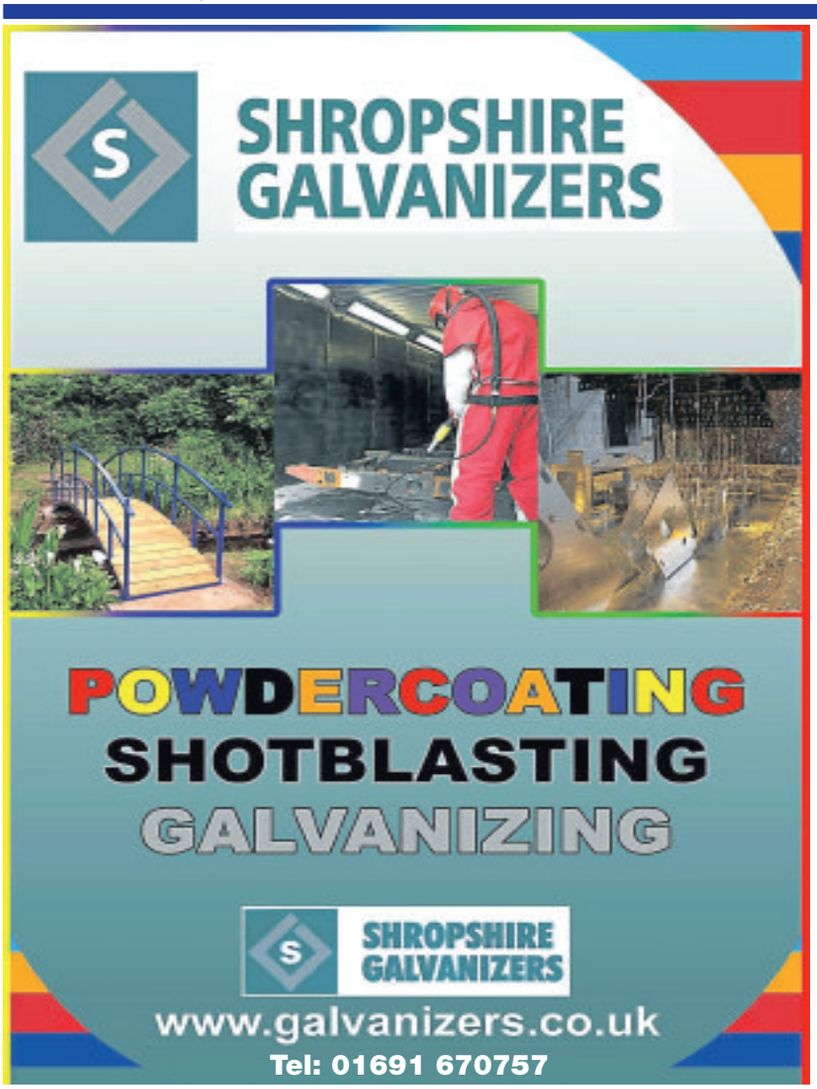
Staged at the town's library and organised by business consultant and training provider Heather Noble, the comedy workshop on January 25 is aimed at 10 to 14-year-olds.

Mrs Noble said: "Aimed at youngsters who want to develop their confidence and their communication skills to give them an edge as they grow and move into the big wide world, this afternoon session is guaranteed to be fun, funny and give them some tips to start developing their own communication style and enhance their listening skills, too.

"The session leads into our regular fortnightly Speak Easy Club that meets after school at the library every other Tuesday and focuses on the same skill set but in a more structured format."

She added: "Confidence in public speaking is important and not many state schools offer lessons in it.

Any parents who are keen to find out more are asked to contact Mrs Noble on (01691) 700800 for more details.



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Lee Leightwood, the works manager, prides himself on customer service and deals with accounts ranging from supplying a single garden gate to bigger projects such as Welshpool Livestock Market and Ivor Williams Trailers.

"We offer expert packaging services and can distribute all over the UK and the World," he said. "We have recently invested in a brand new powder coating plant at Aspect House which is also based on the Maes y Clawdd estate, bringing employment to the town and its success promises more jobs over the next few years."

The new plant has enabled the company to offer a wide range of coating services, including shot blasting, galvanising and powder coating to both the public and trade. Anything is possible, whether you are a private individual or have industrial or agricultural requirements," he added.

Contact Lee Leightwood on (01691) 670757 to discuss your requirements or visit the website at www.galvanizers.co.uk

Author is coming to launch festival

FRANK Cottrell Boyce, children's author, screenwriter and co-scripter of the London 2012 Olympics opening ceremony, will visit Oswestry later this month to launch the town's literary festival.

Mr Cottrell Boyce is serving as Festival Patron of the Oswestry LitFest.

He will be talking about his children's novels, early TV scriptwriting career and collaborations with movie directors Danny Boyle and Michael Winterbottom.

Mr Cottrell Boyce's latest screenplay for The Railway Man, starring Colin Firth and Nicole Kidman, is receiving rave reviews.

Oswestry LitFest organisers also promise to explore their patron's key role in co-writing the London 2012 Olympics opening ceremony at the LitFest launch event on January 24.

In Conversation with Frank Cottrell Boyce will see the Liverpool-born writer in conversation with festival director, John Waine and Oswestry Library's Heather Rodenhurst.

Tickets for the event at The Dining Rooms Oswestry, formerly The Walls Restaurant from Booka Bookshop, Oswestry Library or online at **www.oswestrylitfest.co.uk**

Standard tickets £10, VIP dining tickets to include a post-event supper £25.

OAP rushes to fight flames as car crashes into garden

AN elderly couple have spoken of their shock after a car careered off the road into their front garden and burst into flames.

Frank and Betty Williams say it was a miracle the driver of the Renault Clio was not seriously injured.

Mr Williams, 84, rushed outside with a small fire extinguisher to try to put the blaze out but was told to get back into his house by passers-by amid fears the car would explode.

The couple say the crash last Friday was not the first time their property had been damaged by a car leaving the B4396 road. Eight years ago a BMW car crashed through the front wall of their home on the outskirts of the village of Knockin near Oswestry, ending up wedged on a piano in the front room.

by Iain St John

Mr Williams, a retired farmer and plumber, and his 81-year-old wife were in bed when the crash happened.

He said: "I was having a right nice sleep when I was woken up by a hell of a row outside. There were passers-by outside screaming and bawling and there was a car on fire in the garden. I went out with a little fire extinguisher to try to put it out but it was no use, the fire was too big and the extinguisher soon petered out.

Yelling

"The passers-by were yelling at me to get back because the car was going to blow.

"The driver was okay and the fire engines and ambulance came quickly. The house is okay but the garden and the garden fence is ruined, completely burnt out.

"It was a real fright but not the first time it happened. A car came through the wall one time, smashing through the window and ending up inside."

Mrs Williams, a retired nurse, said: "It was a mess and a miracle the driver was not badly hurt."

Firefighters using breathing apparatus extinguished the fire, which was reported at 6.45am, and used foam to control the blaze.

Ambulance spokeswoman Claire Brown said the driver was taken to the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital with minor injuries.

The scene of the crash in Knockin and, inset, home owner Frank Williams, 84.

Welcome for talks on centre

A DECISION to extend consultation on the proposed closure of a leisure centre popular with Chirk area families has been welcomed by politicians.

Wrexham Council is proposing to close Plas Madoc Leisure Centre as bosses struggle to make huge cost savings.

Council chiefs have agreed to extend the consultation period on the plans until the end of the month. Councillors want to demolish the centre along with Wrexham's Waterworld leisure complex and replace them with a £12 million facility.

The proposals were due to go before the council's executive board for approval next week.

Clwyd South AM Ken Skates welcomed the move to extend the consultation. He said: "I would encourage people who want the centre retained to use it or lose it."

Clwyd South MP Susan Elan Jones said the council was facing "horribly painful choices".

Housing estate is promised fresh start

THE transformation of a housing estate in Oswestry will finally "kill off" its reputation for anti-social behaviour and provide a fresh start for the area, a councillor has said.

Shropshire Councillor Vince Hunt said Swan Lane flats in Oswestry suffered from an often undeserved reputation for problems.

He said he welcomed the knocking down of the flats and the building of affordable homes in their place.

The flats have now been demolished and Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing, which took over the running of council housing last year, will be replacing them with 19 new properties.

The action was taken after council housing officers admitted letting the flats was proving difficult due to the area's reputation for anti-social behaviour and drug misuse.

Councillor Hunt said: "I am looking forward to the development moving forwards and the final delivery of quality homes in this part of Oswestry.

"We all know that this area had garnered a reputation for anti social behaviour fuelling a very negative outlook on the surrounding area that frankly it did not deserve . . . This development will kill off that reputation."

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NEWS in brief

Awards aimed at the best citizens

HAS someone you know made a real difference to Welshpool and deserves to be honoured?

That is the question being asked after the Welshpool Town Council launched its 2014 community awards.

Nominations are being accepted for people who have made a difference in the town.

They don't have to live in Welshpool, but the work or good deed must have been carried out in the town.

To nominate someone, email **townclerk@welshpooltowncouncil.gov.uk** by March 31.

Meeting date for fine arts society

THE next meeting of the North Powys Decorative and Fine Arts Society will be held at The Royal Oak hotel in Welshpool at 7.30pm next Thursday.

Leslie Primo, a NADFAS lecturer, will speak on "Joseph Wright of Derby and the men and art of the Lunar Society."

Non-members are welcome to attend, with a suggested donation of £5.

Singers on DVD

THE last two musicals by the Welshpool St Mary's Singers have been released on DVD.

"Desert Song" (1983) and "White Horse Inn" (1984) are available on DVD from Welshpool's Tourist Information Centre.

Rural businesses need more support says Welsh Minister

WELSH Secretary David Jones called for more support for businesses in rural areas during a visit to Welshpool to meet industry bosses.

Mr Jones visited Welshpool to hear about the successes of some of the area's businesses and to mark the first anniversary of the Mid Wales Chamber of Commerce.

He met Graham Morgan, director of the South and Mid Wales Chambers of Commerce, together with chamber members to discuss the support services on offer to businesses in the region looking to expand to new markets.

by Iain St John

Discussions also focused on the priorities highlighted in the chamber's manifesto for economic growth.

Mr Jones said: "Over the years, our chambers of commerce have played a vital role in providing a prominent voice for local businesses across the country.

"I am delighted to see the South Wales Chamber expanding its footprint into Mid Wales as it represents a huge opportunity for jobs and growth in Powys and beyond.

"Providing support to businesses in the most rural parts of Wales is critical.

Recovery

"Not only do they contribute to our economic recovery, but they also provide valuable jobs and help strengthen Britain's position in the world market.

"If Wales is to succeed in the global race, we need to do more to help companies to grow and to break into new international markets."

The Secretary of State visited car components company, CastAlum, which produces steering gear housings, transmission cases and steering and suspension knuckles for markets in the UK, Germany, Poland, Canada and Mexico.

CastAlum chairman, Peter Radcliffe said: "The expansion success of CastAlum has been gained through our ability and willingness to invest in technology and equipment, allowing us to keep abreast of the ever increasing demand."

CastAlum chairman Peter Radcliffe, left, with Welsh Secretary David Jones during his visit to Welshpool.

Castle grounds bird watch date

THE grounds of Powis Castle will be filled with wild birds and people trying to identify them this weekend as part of the RSPB's annual national bird count.

Powis Castle and Garden will be hosting experts from the RSPB during the charity's two-day Big Garden Bird Watch on Saturday and Sunday.

The gardens have been stocked up with bird feeding stations and visitors are being asked to help identify and count them.

Visitors will be able to get help from the RSPB experts, who will be on hand throughout the afternoon.

Younger visitors will be able to take part in a second challenge as well by collecting a sticker towards the National Trust's '50 things to do before you're 11 and 3/4' challenge. Stickers will be given out on the way out for completing number 44 – Go bird watching. The gates will open at 11am with bird watching sessions taking place between 1pm and 3pm.

Classical pianist is to play at church

RISING star pianist Mishka Rushdie Momen will be playing Chopin, Janacek and Ravel at Welshpool Music Club's concert tonight (Thursday) at 7.30pm.

Performing at Welshpool Methodist Church (tickets £8 at the door), Mishka, 21, is a postgraduate scholar and student of Joan Havill at the Guildhall School, where she also studied for five years.

Her competition successes include the Tillett Trust Young Artist Platform Scheme 2012-13, the Kenneth Loveland Gift 2012, and First Prize in the Norah Sande Award 2012.

Her concert appearances include most of the London venues, including the Barbican and Wigmore Hall, Bridgewater Hall in Manchester, and other major venues including Cardiff University and The Venue, Leeds.

She has also performed in New York, Weimar, Prague, Mumbai and Cologne, and her appearance should be an evening not to be missed.

New kit for team

A WELSHPOOL hairdressers has shown its support for a local junior football team. Sally Fitzgerald, from Fitzgeralds, has handed over training gear to Welshpool C&P U12s.

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With the Estimating Department already hard at work on future projects, 2014 is due to continue the momentum that comes of long-term relationships with high profile customers, including PGL, South Shropshire Housing and Severnside Housing. Be it multi-million pound housing developments or a major showpiece building which can still boast an "A" rating for energy efficiency, S J Roberts Construction can deliver.

A growing team of specialists will ensure the challenges of the next 12 months and beyond continue to be met with the style and reliability that is the hallmark of the Marton-based business.

WELSHPOOL NEWS 01691 668094

Children's drama group to create show for BBC

Sarah Owen at work in one of her Pyjama Drama classes.

by Graham Breeze

WELSHPOOL-based children's drama company Pyjama Drama has been commissioned to create a 10-part show for BBC children's channel Cbeebies.

Pyjama Drama runs classes across the UK, and the shows will profile the world of work.

The show will be aired on Cbeebies Radio, a daily web-based radio show for pre-school children.

Sarah Owen, from Leighton, is the founder of Pyjama Drama. She said: "It's all about looking at the world of work through the eyes of children.

"We want to find out what children understand about the jobs their parents and other grown-ups do.

Workshops

"Very young children love to pretend, in fact it's what they instinctively do, so we've created a series of drama workshops to encourage children to place themselves in grown-up shoes and to role-play being an adult at work.

"The subsequent drama, created by the children's own perceptions and experiences, will form the basis of a joyful but enlightening radio show, to be enjoyed by all ages."

Production is starting over the next few weeks and the show will air in the early part of 2014.

Pyjama Drama provides drama and imaginative play classes for children aged six months to seven years.

There are public classes. They meet at schools and nurseries and hold parties.

It was developed by former drama teacher, Sarah, and currently operates in 29 locations across the UK.

For further information, visit **www.pyjamadrama.com** or, for the show, see **www.savvyproductions.net**

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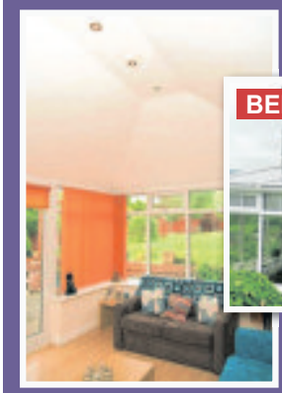

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NEWS

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Steam rally fans gather for funeral of stalwart Landy

A STALWART of Shropshire Steam Rally was buried in Churchstoke on Saturday surrounded by his beloved steam wagons.

Joe Lawley, known as Landy, died in Scotland aged 91 on New Year's Eve and his funeral took place at the Church of St Nicholas in Churchstoke.

His coffin was taken to the church on the back of a wagon pulled by the first steam engine he ever worked on in the 1930s.

Family friend Andrew Semple, from Minsterley, said: "Landy was a wonderful character. "He had his funeral planned and had told everyone that he wanted to arrive at the church on a wagon drawn by an engine called Fermoy.

by Lucy Todman

"It was the first engine he worked on at the saw mills – using it for timber haulage in the 1930s and the first engine he ever steered.

"He was adamant he wanted it to take him to the church but when I told the current owner, Russell Cooke, the date of the funeral, it wasn't ready. So he worked all week to get it up and running in time.

"The gathering at the church was a testament to the extraordinary man we said goodbye to. We all miss him but we were all united in saying we were proud to know him."

Renovating

Mr Lawley collected broken and rundown steam engines from all over the country and would spend hours renovating them at his Churchstoke home.

Mr Lawley was close friends with Shrewsbury Steam Rally founders Frank Hannett, Reg Wheeler, Dick Woolley and Dennis Smith and was among the first to discuss the formation of a rally. He exhibited his saw bench at Shrewsbury Steam's first rally at Bishop's Castle in 1970 and went on to attend virtually every Shropshire Steam Rally until his death.

Mr Lawley, who ran Lawley Bros with his brother Mark, was married to Joan who died in 1997 and had three daughters, Megan, Jean and Josephine.

The funeral of Joe Lawley at St Nicholas church, Churchstoke.

Deadline close for sporting funds bid

SPORTS groups and clubs in Oswestry are being urged to apply for the latest round of funding before the deadline runs out later this month.

The closing date for the next round of grants from Oswestry & District Sports Council will be on January 20.

Applications are invited from sports clubs or individuals who live or train in the Oswestry area.

The eligible area is within 10 miles of Oswestry, so it includes Ellesmere and Baschurch.

Susie Hancock, secretary of the sports council, said: "Oswestry Sports Council Grants distributed over £3,700 over the last year, as small grants to local clubs and individuals, to help them in their sport.

"In October 2013, grants were awarded to Oswestry Otters and Shropshire Paddlesport.

"Oswestry & District Sports Council is grateful to the Oswestry cluster of local joint committees for delegating funding.

"Applications are now invited for the next round of grants. Applicants will be asked to attend the committee meeting at 7.30pm on February 6, when the applications will be assessed."

For details visit the website **www.oswestrygames.co.uk**

Hospital gets nitrogen unit

OSWESTRY Orthopaedic Hospital has been given a specialist liquid nitrogen storage unit to be used to store a unique archive of bone and soft tissue samples.

The samples handed to the hospital are part of an internationally important collection which are playing a key part in the battle against cancer.

The hospital's League of Friends has presented the hospital with the storage vessel, which cost £3,700, to allow the samples to be stored safely.

Nigel Harness, manager of the hospital's histopathology department, said by snap freezing and storing the samples at -80C (-112F) in the vessel they were kept in a "fresh" state with their cell nuclear genetic codes perfectly preserved.

The collection includes tissue samples from bone and soft tissue sarcomas – rare cancers – plus samples of cancer which have spread to the skeleton. The liquid nitrogen storage vessel is a stand-alone system.

Farmers' Italy trip proved fruitful

FARMERS and smallholders have enjoyed a two week all expenses paid visit to Italy under the Life Long Learning funded project arranged via the enterprise and development department of Walford and North Shropshire College.

The 23 participants visited organisations to learn about adding value to products, as well as techniques and diversification opportunities which could be applied in the UK and help ensure the future of farming in Europe.

The group met producers of cheese, olive oil, rice and representatives of a honey co-operative and took part in a guided walk through Maremma National Park.

Project officer Cindy Joule said: "The visit was a huge success, with participants saying it had far outweighed their expectations of the knowledge gained.

"The group also learned about adding value to the products, and will be able to implement some of the practices into their own businesses and in some cases re-evaluate their individual businesses back in the UK."

Participants were presented with certificates.

There is a visit planned to Sweden in April and a return to Italy in June.

To find out more contact 01939 262154 or **l.wilcox@wnsc.ac.uk**.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As the New Year begins, we would like to say a huge 'thank you' to all of our valued customers from last year, for making 2013 our best year to date. There have been so many changes in this industry in the past few years, particularly with new technology, environmental issues and of course, the country's economy. But we are ready to take on 2014 with a progressive and positive outlook towards these challenges and we are excited for what this year will bring.

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NEWS

01691 668094

Store figurehead Mary dies at 101

Mary Bunner died last month aged 101.

by Graham Breeze

THE businesswoman who was the figurehead of one of Mid Wales' best known stores for more than half a century has died at the age of 101.

Mary Bunner took over the running of RH Bunner & Son, Ltd, in Montgomery, when her husband Alan died in 1953 and in the following decades she became as well known as the shop itself.

For some, Bunner's has become as much a tourist attraction as an ironmongers store, with staff taking immense pride in still serving customers in the traditional friendly manner and the store looking much like it would have done when it was established in 1892.

According to staff, visitors who walk into the whitewashed shop often say they could be forgiven for thinking they were walking on to the set of the classic Two Ronnies "four candles" television sketch.

Mrs Bunner's daughter,Mary, said she often wondered whether the set was the result of someone from the TV show visiting the shop.

Today Miss Bunner paid tribute to her mother, who died at home in Montgomery on December 28.

She left daughters, Mary and Ann, three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Miss Bunner said a service to celebrate her mother's life was held in the parish church in the town last Thursday.

Back, from left, Toby Hodgson, Matt Cummins and Doug Skilton. Middle, from left, Gaynor Williams, Caroline Davies, Julia Jones, Nick Smith, Thomas Corfield, Linda Watkin, John Jerman and John Jones. Front, from left, grand-daughter to Mrs Bunner, Alice Dodman, grand-son , Rob Yewdall, daughter, Ann Yewdall, daughter, Mary Bunner and son-in-law, Tom Yewdall.

Mrs Bunner had taken over the running of the shop in 1953 following the death of her husband.

Miss Bunner said: "She had two young girls to look after as well as the shop to run and she worked very hard, helped by shop manager, John Blower. My sister Ann and her husband then became involved in the business and now their son is involved. It is a true family business. Until very latterly. Mum was still involved, happy to give advice and talk to the customers.

Community

"She dealt with all the mail until about three years ago."

Mrs Bunner was also involved in the local community. Her daughter said: "She was a founder member of the Women's Institute in Montgomery, which was very involved in making pickles and jams for the community in the war, and a member of other organisations, including the local branch of the NSPCC."

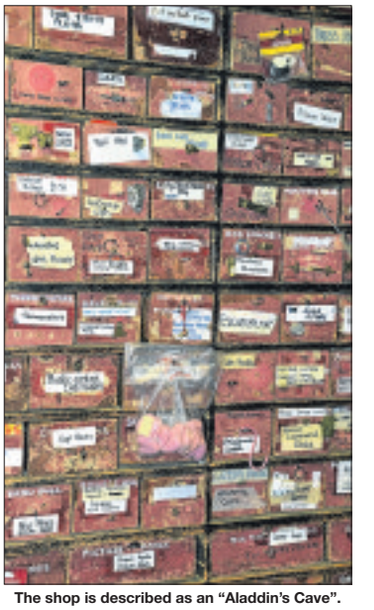
She added: "She was also the first female churchwarden of the church at St Nicholas."

Miss Bunner said that with the help of carers her mum had been able to enjoy life at home.

"She really enjoyed her 101st birthday back in October when we had a low key party for her, with a jazz trio. And she even enjoyed Christmas Day with us," her daughter said.

Inside Bunner's Ironmongers in Montgomery.

Another view of inside Bunner's Ironmongers.



The shop is described as an "Aladdin's Cave".

The shop celebrated its 120th anniversary in October 2012 and even now is still described as an "Aladdin's Cave" by customers and visitors.

Customers can still buy a single screw if that is all they need but the shop also stocks everything from quad bikes, garden machinery, kitchen supplies, light bulbs, tools to toys and also those hard to find items.

Although the shop has grown over the years, it still has Georgian-style windows and an Edwardian front.

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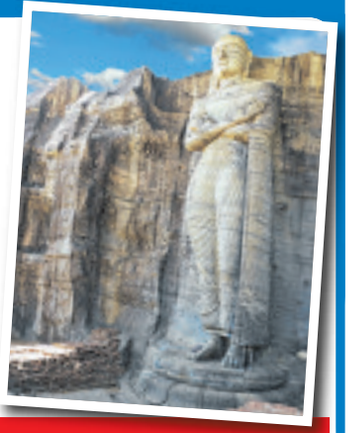
For a different sort of experience, two nights are reserved at the Safari Hotel, which has a pool, bar and restaurant overlooking the Tiffa Lake. Just 45 minutes from the Yala National Park this is the base for an early morning start to the jeep safari in the hope of seeing leopard, elephants, saltwater crocodiles, wild boar, sloth bears, monitor lizards and a huge variety of birdlife. The three-star superior Palms Hotel in the beach resort of Beruwela is the final port of call, allowing for two days of rest and relaxation before the journey home.



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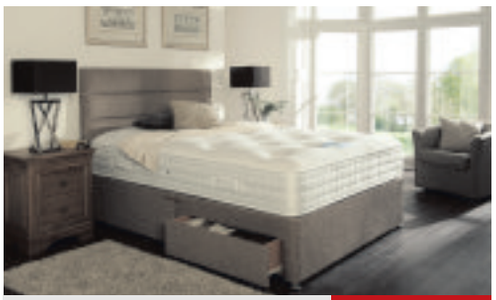

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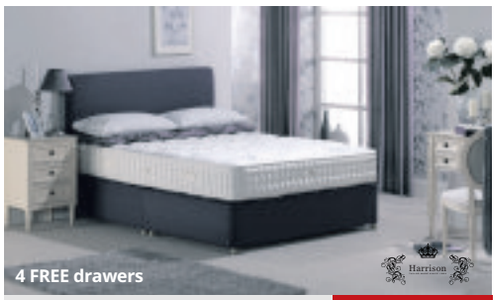
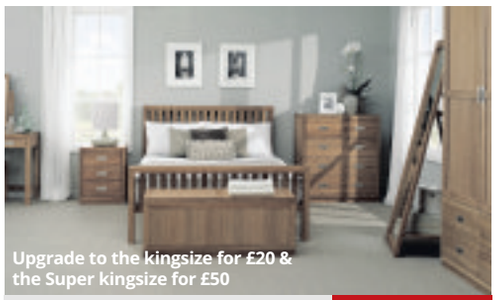


Harrison Peridot luxury handmade 5ft kingsize. Choice of mattress firmness and base colour*. **Was £1735**

SALE **£999**



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NEWS in brief

Council taxpayers face a 5.2pc rise

COUNCIL taxpayers in Weston Rhyn will be faced with a 5.2 per cent increase this year in the village's portion of the bill following the agreement of the 2014/15 precept.

Last year, council tax band D payers, paid £23.42, but from April they will pay £24.63.

Council clerk Roger Dyke said the budget had been set at £19,000.

Among expenses are £3,000 for the maintenance of the village institute, more than £1,300 for street lighting maintenance, and a general three per cent increase in council costs.

Thieves take cash in post office raid

BURGLARS have escaped with "a large amount" of cash after breaking into a village post office at Meifod and raiding the safe.

The raiders broke into Meifod Post Office at H & M Lewis General Store through a window between 11.45pm on January 8 and 12.05am the following morning.

Detective Constable Zoe Powell, from Dyfed-Powys Police, said: "Officers arrived at the scene to find that a burglary had taken place that included money being taken from the post office safe."

Anyone with information is asked to contact police on 101.

Mayor joins call for more investment from overseas

OSWESTRY'S mayor has echoed calls for more investment to the area from overseas, with hopes the move could bring about a new innovation park for the town, creating up to 3,000 jobs.

Oswestry Innovation Park is on a shortlist of Shropshire-based projects which county leaders, supported by Daniel Kawczynski, MP for Shrewsbury & Atcham, are championing as potential investment opportunities from overseas.

Talks have been held with UK Trade & Investment (UKTI), the Government arm that encourages inward investment and promotes exporting, over the plans.

by Graham Breeze

Oswestry town mayor, Councillor Chris Schofield said he fully backed the work to establish Oswestry Innovation Park.

He said: "I think the work Daniel is doing is absolutely fantastic and I would back him without a shadow of doubt. I have great respect for the work he is doing in trying to attract overseas investment to Shropshire.

"I actually think things could be looking on the up in Oswestry at last, and to have the prospect of thousands of jobs around the corner is welcome news."

Details put together by Shropshire Council include outlines for ambitious plans for the 23 hectare site.

The council says: "This is a major commercial and industrial opportunity with potential to meet business needs of Shropshire, Cheshire and North Wales and has the capacity to create around 3,000 jobs.

"This greenfield site, at a key gateway to Oswestry, has huge potential as a business park for new offices and light industry.

"This site is on the A5 highway, which links mainland Europe to Ireland through England and Wales via Holyhead and is highly prominent from the south and west from the A5 and close to the internationally famous Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital.

"Upgrading of the A5/A483 roundabout next to the site will be funded and carried out the Highways Agency from 2014 and will provide a spur access to the park."

Talented young singer sought

A SEARCH has been launched for a talented young singer to perform with opera superstar Bryn Terfel at this year's Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod.

The festival is seeking a boy to play Tobias Ragg in the Stephen Sondheim musical *Sweeney Todd*.

Auditions will be held next month in Cardiff and at the eisteddfod's home in Llangollen, where musical director Eilir Owen Griffiths will also be searching for two "unknowns" to join an all-Welsh cast for the performance on July 7.

He said: "As well as Toby, we're looking for two 18 to 25-year-olds to play the key roles of Anthony Hope and Johanna Baker, the two young lovers.

The performance of Sweeney Todd will mark Bryn Terfel's first performance there since he opened the 2006 festival.

Contact **events@international-eisteddfod.co.uk** for more information about the auditions.

Tractor pull cash handed over

MONEY raised from the Ruyton XI Towns annual tractor pull has been presented to Hope House, Severn Hospice and Kikambala Children's Home in Kenya. At the presentation are Lyndsey Kilvert, Hope House fundraiser, Angela McKenna and Gary Penton, organisers, Mike Perry, Severn Hospice community fundraiser and Maureen Penton, with Onky Ankers and Mark Humphreys of Malpas Tractor Pulling Club.

Education promise made by area's AM

ASSEMBLY Member Russell George has said his priority for 2014 will be to lobby for an increase in education standards in Wales

The Montgomeryshire AM made the commitment after acknowledgment by the Education Minister, Huw Lewis AM, that the Welsh Government had been complacent and had to apologise to Welsh young people for failing school standards.

Last month the international Pisa test results showed Wales had fallen further behind the rest of the UK in key subjects.

The results showed Wales just scraped into the top 40, in contrast to the Welsh Government's target of raising Wales' ranking to the top 20 by 2015.

Mr George said: "Pisa is a robust and authoritative indicator of global educational standards, so these truly appalling figures show Wales' educational performance has at best, stagnated and at worst, declined."

Crash on the A5

COMMUTERS using the main road between Shrewsbury and Oswestry faced rush hour delays on Monday after a two-car collision.

The crash happened on the northbound stretch of the A5 at West Felton, near Oswestry, at about 7.30am.

KEEPING OSWESTRY ALIVE

OSWESTRY & BORDER CHRONICLE

Thank you to all our readers and advertisers who have supported the Oswestry & Border Chronicle Keeping Oswestry Alive Campaign.
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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Healthy lifestyle is on horizon with therapist

by Graham Breeze

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Angela Mandy

Angela Mandy started her therapy business Healthy Horizons in 1997. She is a clinical hypnotherapist, yoga teacher and health coach and particularly enjoys helping and empowering her clients so that they can use many of the techniques for themselves.

She has qualifications in hypnotherapy, NLP (neuro linguistic programming), Reiki, counselling, EFT (Emotional Freedom Technique), yoga teaching, coaching and nutrition for weight loss.

These therapies are designed to help you relieve stress, learn to relax and dissolve old, negative programmes and patterns from the past.

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You may have lots of questions about how hypnotherapy or EFT can help you so why not book an introductory session, which is totally confidential, without any obligation to continue – and completely free.

"I've always been interested in the effects of stress on the mind, body and emotions having faced and overcome many personal challenges of my own, with the help of various therapies," said Angela. "Realising the powerful nature of effective therapy, I decided to train as a therapist myself and gained a certificate in counselling, followed by qualifications in aromatherapy, Indian Head massage, sports massage, Reiki, yoga teaching, hypnotherapy, Emotional Freedom Technique, Matrix Reimprinting and nutrition for weight management. Fortunately I've discovered that I really enjoy learning and the field of therapy is an endlessly fascinating one to be in, so I am very happy to continue to update my skills with some of the best therapists in the country.

"I work from my home based therapy room in peaceful Maesbury Marsh, near Oswestry and at Zest Ladies Fitness Centre in Oswestry (behind Sainsbury's).

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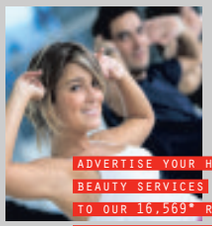

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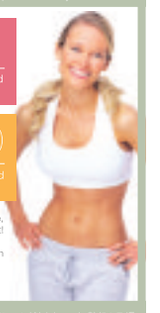

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Elderly walker is injured in accident

AN elderly pedestrian suffered serious injuries after being knocked down in Oswestry.

The man's condition has been described as "critical but stable".

Police issued an appeal for witnesses to the crash which happened at about 7pm on Thursday evening.

Officers have not named the pedestrian but said he is in his seventies and is being treated in the major trauma unit at hospital in Stoke-on-Trent.

He suffered multiple fractures and other injuries after being in collision with a blue Vauxhall Zafira while walking in Willow Street in Oswestry.

He was initially taken to the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

Police have issued an appeal for anyone who witnessed the incident, or the circumstances leading up to it, to contact Oswestry or Shrewsbury police stations by calling 101. The reference number is 0530s090114.

Parents call for grant rethink

A COUPLE have called for a change in rules over what disabled people can spend their personal budget on, claiming the regulations are depriving their severely disabled son of one of his few remaining pleasures in life.

Tony Grimes, 51, was seriously injured in a road crash when he was just 18 years old and needs round the clock care at his especially adapted Oswestry bungalow.

by Iain St John

One of the few pleasures he has left, according to his parents Helen and Sid Grimes of Ellesmere, is being taken to a cafe for lunch or a cup of tea and cake.

But the couple have been told Tony should not be spending any of his personal budget, which he receives following the closure of Shrewsbury's Grange Day Centre, on food or drink.

Council bosses said although food and drink costs cannot be taken from the personal budget, they do help people to claim benefits from others agencies to cover those costs.

Break

Mrs Grimes, 84, said the ruling had upset the family because her son enjoyed an occasional day out, along with a stop for a cafe lunch or a tea break.

She said: "It seems they are just hitting the disabled hard again. They actually took some of the money from his personal budget back because he just was not spending it but that is because he can't do much.

"There is not much he can do. We have used the personal budget in the past for food and drink but we have been told we are not allowed.

Mr Grimes said his son was severely injured in the car crash more than 30 years ago and can now only move his right arm and also suffers from memory lapses and concentration problems. The couple's other son Gary died in hospital three days later from injuries suffered in the accident, which happened in Sussex.

Mr Grimes said: "For Tony going to a cafe and having a cup of tea is an activity.

"They called the personal budget programme My Life, My Choice, but really it is My Life, The Council's Choice.

Mr Grimes, 82, added: "We are not getting any younger and you worry about Tony and what he will have left in his life. We just want the council to look again at the rules."

Councillor Lee Chapman, cabinet member for adult services said: "We ensure that we fund the care that is needed.

"Based upon an individual's needs, this could, for example, include funding 24 hour support.

"If an individual is eligible, part of the payment is provided for daytime activities and it is agreed through a support plan what this will be spent on, ie travel to do an activity and the admission cost.

"While this payment does not cover food and drink, we support individuals to claim benefits to cover these costs from those agencies which are responsible for this funding."

Tony Grimes from Oswestry who is severely disabled after a car accident when he was 18 years old.

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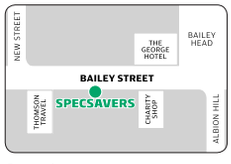

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Town author publishes his latest book

AN Oswestry author who travels the world as an international salesman has published his latest book – which he says was largely written in hotel rooms.

A Just and Upright Man, a piece of historical fiction set in the 18th century, has been written by 70-year-old John Lynch who hails originally from Newcastle upon Tyne but has lived in the north of the county for 31 years.

It is a story of murder, love, and intrigue, and is the first in a five-book series featuring central character James Blakiston. The second, *Poor Law*, is scheduled for publication next month.

He has been a writer for many years and in 1953, at the age of 10, stood on the stage in the assembly hall at his primary school and read a story he had written to assembled pupils and parents.

And he says it still gives him pleasure that afterwards one of his classmates was nagged all the way home by his mother demanding: "Why can't you write like John Lynch?"

He has been published under other names in the past to keep separate his working and private lives, but now writes as R.J. Lynch and John Lynch.

"Robert Hale are the specialists for historical fiction and it looked as though they were going to publish the book, but then they decided it was too long," he said.

"I have three friends, people I've known for a long time, who were setting up Mandrill Press as a co-operative and they suggested I go in with them. So I did. It upset the balance a bit, because Mandrill Press mostly publishes what is politely known as erotica and that's not what I write," he said.

"In my day job I'm an international salesman and I spend a fair bit of time abroad. I shall shortly be going to the Canaries, Saudi Arabia, Abu Dhabi, Trinidad, Curaco and Suriname. *A Just and Upright Man* was largely written in hotel rooms."

A Just and Upright Man is published by Mandrill Press, **www.mandrillpress.com**

Housing petition to be presented

A PETITION against any more house building in a village on the edge of Oswestry will be presented to councillors by villagers who say it is in danger of losing its identity.

Residents of Morda who are against any more development say their village is bearing too much of the brunt of new home building in the area.

One of the campaigners is to present the petition to the Oswestry Rural Parish Council meeting which will be held in Rhydycroesau village hall on Tuesday.

Mrs Patricia Broad and her neighbours have objected to plans for 10 houses near Old Mapsis Way saying the lanes are too small to cope with the additional traffic.

The 79-year-old said: "Morda is in grave danger of losing its identity as a village. We are being unfairly targeted for development." The public are welcome to the parish meeting which starts at 7pm.

Session is helping fruit trees to grow

A TRADITIONAL wassailing session will be held at a community orchard in Oswestry to encourage the fruit trees to grow well and produce a good harvest.

The Cambrian Railways Orchard Project on Gobowen Road will host the wassailing evening on Saturday, when songs will be sung around the orchard and the health of the trees toasted.

Andrew Tullo, spokesman for Crop, said: "As part of Incredible Edible Oswestry which has taken off so well this year, we plan to encourage our fruit trees in 2014 by holding a wassailing.

"We'll be glad of company, including children, and Kate Allan will be running through some wassailing songs that very morning in the Memorial Hall from 11.30am to 1pm, which will be fun."

The orchard-visiting wassail is an ancient custom of visiting orchards in cider-producing regions of England, reciting incantations and singing to the trees to promote a good harvest for the coming year. According to folklore, the wassailing wakes the cider apple trees and scares away evil spirits to ensure a good harvest.

Wassailing varies from village to village, but generally include a King and Queen to lead the singing, and of cider or apple juice from the previous year presented to the tree spirits.

MP's wife to talk at group

ROSE Paterson, wife of environment secretary and north Shropshire MP Owen Paterson, is to be guest speaker at a meeting of the Oswestry branch of the Business and Professional Women organisation.

She will attend the group's annual international evening on March 21. For more call (01691) 657997.

AT THE SALES

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Advertisement feature

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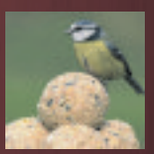

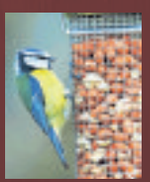

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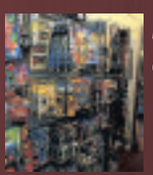

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Crime tsar fund gets £200,000 requests

BIDS totalling more than £200,000 were received in round two of a community grants initiative organised by Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Commissioner Christopher Salmon.

The Commissioner's Fund – with a total allocation of around £80,000 – attracted bids of up to £5,000 from more than 50 applicants. They came from Carmarthenshire (15 applications), Ceredigion (12), Pembrokeshire (six), and Powys (18).

The community initiatives which succeed in securing grants will be announced in February. Mr Salmon praised the Dyfed-Powys officers and staff who nominated all initiatives.

He said: "The response from the force's officers and staff was incredible. It's a shame that some good ideas will miss out – unfortunately we have limited funds; they may be successful in round three which we plan to launch towards the middle of this year.

"In the meantime, I'm delighted that around £80,000 will be shared out across the region to help improve the lives of the people in our communities."

The Commissioner's Fund will give out grants for charities, voluntary organisations, community groups, police officers and staff wanting to develop ideas.

Globetrotter John is back on travels after ankle ops

by Pam Kingsley

A GLOBETROTTING pensioner who was forced to give up his trips because of arthritis in his ankles has been able to resume his travels after undergoing surgery at Oswestry's Orthopaedic Hospital.

John Orford, a retired IT manager from Shrewsbury, was so pleased to "get his life back" that he wanted to give something to the hospital, and especially Kenyon ward where he was treated, and raised £1,000 for the hospital by completing a sponsored walk.

Himalayas

Mr Orford, 67, has been a serious walker for over 50 years, starting his trekking as a teenager in the Lake District peaks and later the Munros in Scotland.

For an eight year period from 2000, John and his wife Pam undertook expeditions across the globe, from the South American Andes, the African mountains and deserts, the Himalayas, Australia to northern Iceland.

However in 2008, his arthritic ankles became too much and eventually he sought medical advice.

In November 2011, RJAH Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon Andrew Bing fused his right ankle to give relief from the joint pain, as his ankle had almost seized up and bone overgrowth had twisted his foot inwards.

Nearly a year later, Mr Bing replaced his left ankle, which he was still able to move but was painful.

John using a frame to get about.

John and Pam Orford being able to actively enjoy the spectacular Ethiopian scenery in 2013.

Mr Orford then faced months of rehabilitation, but in July 2013 completed a nine-mile charity walk across the Morecambe Bay, and then in October last year, he and his wife joined a group of friends on a walking trip in the Ethiopian lakes and mountains.

"I waited too long really before seeking help with my ankles," he said. And now Mr Orford has some advice for others in a similar situation.

"Since my operations I would now recommend anyone who experiences joint pain to act early and, if offered, to take treatment – it's well worth it."

He is looking forward to his 2014 walking trip – although he isn't sure where that will take him yet.

"The big question now is where to go next?" he said.

"While I have visited countries in six continents, it's a big world out there.

"The shortlist is down to Botswana, China, Cambodia, New Zealand or Hawaii."

Inspectors' praise as schools progress

SCHOOLS in Mid Wales have improved at a "considerable pace" since the county council was ordered to make "significant" changes to the way they are assessed, inspectors have said.

Estyn, the Welsh school inspection body, has previously criticised Powys County Council for the way it judged its schools' performance.

In both 2011 and 2012 the council was told its self-evaluations were "too positive" and did not identify shortcomings, even though at the time it had four schools in special measures.

But after bringing in regular inspections, Estyn has said matters have improved, especially since Powys began sharing services with neighbouring Ceredigion County Council.

No Powys County Council primary schools are in special measures. The only high school which is judged to be failing, John Beddoes School in Presteigne, will close and become a campus of Newtown High School later this year.

Clive Phillips, assistant director of Estyn, said: "Since the Estyn monitoring visit in October 2012, change and improvement have happened at a considerable pace, both corporately and within the schools' service."

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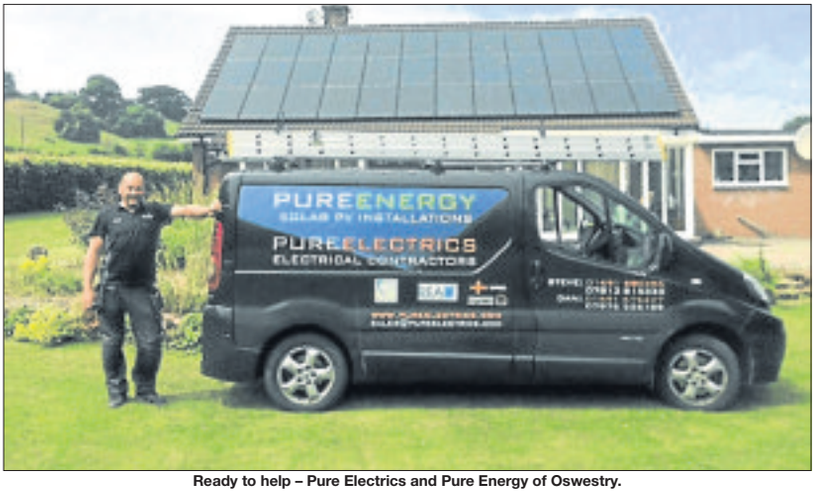

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This includes roof mounted, ground mounted, in roof systems and on roof systems. It includes all sizes of domestic and commercial arrays.

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A spokesman for the firm said: "We can supply and install any make of panel or inverter to suit customers' requirements. We have put in hundreds of installations of all sizes both domestic and commercial ranging from 2kw to 500kw systems.

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For more details call 01691 681051 or 07813 815333 or call at Unit 6 Maes Y Clawdd, Maesbury Road, Oswestry, SY10 8NN.

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"Pure Energy would like to thank all of our customers, suppliers and local community for their continued support during the last year and for supporting local contractors in the Electrical and Solar PV Industry."

In association with Pure Electrics Electrical Contractors

Advertisement Feature

Firm expanding to meet extra demand

ESP Energy, the Shropshire-based renewable energy company, has had to take on additional installers, new salesman and a new operations manager to keep up with increased demand.

Martin Manning is the new operations manager, who will work with business customers to organise installations. He has been involved in the renewable sector for many years and has a wealth of experience in biomass boilers, heat pumps and solar PV installations.

Excellent

ESP Energy's managing director Mike Collison says: "We are extremely lucky to have someone with Martin's knowledge and ability joining our team. I look forward to using his skills to ensure all our installations go to schedule and help provide an excellent service for our customers, both pre and post installation."

ESP Energy is a family business and Mike is delighted his son Ross has now joined as sales manager. Ross has been involved part-time for many years and now joins full-time, making him the fourth family member working for the company. Ross will be working closely with Martin to make sure businesses receive the best customer care possible.

ESP Energy is committed to playing a full part in enabling businesses to take part in the green revolution. It was one of the first renewable energy companies in the area and has many years of experience supplying and installing all types of green energy systems - from biomass boilers and PV/solar thermal panels through to air and ground source heat pumps.

The ability to assess customers' requirements and find the right solution is key to making the business successful. For some it may be creating electricity through PV panels, others may need to reduce

Mike Collison, managing director of Shropshire-based ESP Energy

heating bills through the use of a wood-burning boiler or heat pump.

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Slimming class is to start at centre

HEALTH and fitness fanatics will be able to get fit this month by joining two classes in Llanfair Caereinion.

The village's Slimming World sessions take place on Wednesday evenings during January at Caereinion Leisure Centre from 7pm.

For further details call Clare, the Slimming World consultant, on (01691) 870428.

And a bums and tums keep fit class started on Monday at the Institute in Llanfair.

The class is suitable for all ages and runs every Monday evening during term time, from 7pm.

On Tuesday evenings the keep fit class of bums and tums is being held at Meifod Village Hall at 7.30pm. Admission is £3.50 per session. All are welcome.

Exhibition to be launched in town

THE Rights of Spring exhibition will be on display at the Willow Gallery in Willow Street, Oswestry, from January 18 to March 1 in the Dunbabin Art Space.

The gallery is open daily from 10am to 5pm.

First World War theme to feature in park's planting

SPECIALLY designed features are to be installed in Oswestry's showpiece public park as part of the town's recognition of the start of the First World War.

Among the features at Cae Glas Park will be a summer bedding scheme with a First World War theme using colours associated with that time.

A further feature will be commemorative carpet bedding to be planted either side of the park's memorial gun.

And the gun itself will also have something of a sprucing up ahead of the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, according to a report summarising a recent meeting of Cae Glas Park management group.

by Iain St John

The report said James Wadkin from Chirk, an ex-member of the Royal Artillery, had offered to provide the correct shade of green paint for the gun.

Management group members agreed to accept the offer after hearing the gun will be repainted in the spring anyway as part of the First World War centenary work.

Jewel

The report added that work was continuing by contractors employed by Oswestry Town Council to improve the park, referred to as the town's Jewel in the Crown.

The report said Jim Thompson, director of contractors P&W Maintenance, outlined to the management group some of the work carried out in recent months and warned that further work was needed to bring the park up to the highest of standards.

He said: "When we tendered for the contract we took the view several areas were not up to the standard set out in the contract specification and our price reflected this in as much as it will take two to three years to get it to the standard and then keep it in the condition required. It is 15 months into the contract and some areas of concern are, or have been, addressed, namely the amenity grass and bowling green and a percentage of the herbaceous beds." Management group members noted the report.

The floral display at Cae Glas Park in Oswestry last year.

Police given a patrol bicycle

POLICE officers have been given a new bicycle to help them tackle crime by a Welshpool based company.

The neighbourhood police team in Newtown has been given the Giant mountain bike by staff at Brooks Cycles, who have shops in Welshpool and Newtown.

The force said the bicycle will be a "key tool" in tackling crime in the town centre.

Inspector Jon Tatton said: "The Giant make bike will be shared by two officers as they go about their duties.

"The donation is extremely generous and we are very grateful to Brooks Cycles. The bicycle will be a key tool in ensuring that we as police are accessible and visible to the public."

Jamie Cruse, of Brooks Cycles, said: "Not only will this allow our local beat officers to respond more quickly when required, but will also help reduce carbon emissions where a patrol car would have been used on local callouts in the past."

MP Owen refusing to speak on plans

ENVIRONMENT minister and North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson is refusing to be drawn into the row over plans to build homes on the edge of an iron age hill fort in Shropshire.

The Campaign to Protect Rural England has challenged Mr Paterson to intervene to protect the ancient moment, said to the be birthplace of Guinevere, wife of King Arthur.

But the Secretary of State for the Environment said that in 16 years as an MP he had not got involved in local planning issues.

The proposals have been made under Shropshire Council's SAMDev plan to earmark preferred sites for new development. A piece of land to the south of the hillfort is suggested.

The proposals have sparked nationwide protest, with 6,000 signing a petition against it.

In a letter to Mr Paterson Shaun Spiers, The CPRE's chief executive, said: "While this is a case in your own constituency, it has major national implications.

"CPRE Shropshire is particularly concerned to hear that English Heritage seems resigned to the development going ahead."

But Mr Paterson said: "Like my predecessor I have a strict rule about not getting involved in planning in my constituency."

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Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Smart family home in desirable part of town

A well appointed four-bedroom detached house in a delightful position in a popular part of Oswestry is on the market with agents Richmond Harvey, who are recommending an early viewing.

Number 78 Ascot Road comprises an entrance hall, cloakroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility, master bedroom en-suite, three further bedrooms, a bathroom, gas central heating, double glazing, double width driveway, garage and gardens.

In further detail the entrance hall has laminate effect flooring. The living room has a fireplace with electric coal effect fire, and there are patio doors to the rear garden from the dining room.

The kitchen includes a double oven, gas hob with an extractor over and a tiled floor. The utility room has a sink and space and plumbing for appliances.

Outside the driveway has ample parking space and there is an open plan front garden with a lawn and gravelled border. The rear garden includes patio areas and a shed.

Richmond Harvey are seeking offers in the region of £182,500. Call 01691 654222 or visit www.richmondharvey.com for details.

Spacious Victorian property was village doctor's surgery

A roomy three-bedroom end of terrace village home which was the former doctor's surgery is on the market for £189,995. Dating from the late 1800s, The Old Surgery, The Cross, West Felton, retains many original features. There is an entrance hall, lounge, dining/living room, kitchen/breakfast room, cloakroom, cellar, two double bedrooms, wet room, and second floor master suite with en-suite shower room. To the rear is an excellent garden. The property also benefits from double glazing and oil fired central heating throughout.

Call Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367 to arrange a viewing.

Former forester's cottage in glorious countryside setting

A spacious, well-presented three-bedroom former forester's cottage in the desirable village of Leighton, at the foot of Long Mountain, is on sale at £179,950. Number 2 The Pentre retains many period features and is packed with character. The sitting room, dining room and kitchen, while being three distinct spaces, provide an open plan feel. The semi-detached property has fine views to the front across open countryside, with glimpses of Powis Castle to the west, and includes a large rear garden. Call Halls on 01938 555552 to view.

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NEW — NO CHAIN

A South Facing detached two bedroom bungalow situated on a corner plot in a quiet cul de sac location, a short walk from Oswestry town centre having the benefit of a conservatory, detached garage, easy maintenance gardens, gas central heating and UPVC double glazing. This property needs to be viewed to be appreciated. Current EPC Rating D

Greenbank Close, Oswestry
Price: £157,500
Contact Oswestry

NEW

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Boot Street, Whittington
Price: Offers over £345,000
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This beautifully presented three bedroom cottage bungalow has the most wonderful views across the Ceiriog Valley. Located in the picturesque village of Pantfadog which provides a post office, local shops and a river running through.

- Thee Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Gardens, Parking & Garage
- Current EPC Rating E

Glas Coed, Pontfadog
Price: £249,950
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A unique four bedroom detached equestrian family home with three bedroom detached bungalow/annexe set in excess of 9 acres and featuring a range of useful outbuildings, stabling, workshops, garaging and barn.

- Country Lane Position
- Range Of Outbuildings
- Set In Excess Of 9 Acres
- Current EPC Rating D

The Slades, West Felton
Price: Offers over £799,950
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NO CHAIN

This immaculate executive detached family home offers spacious accommodation and is decorated at a high standard and fitted to a high specification.

- 4 Bedroom (2 With En-Suites)
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- Double Garage & Parking
- Landscaped Gardens
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- Current EPC Rating D

2 Brydges Gate, Llandrinio
Price: £375,000
Contact Shrewsbury

This charming semi detached cottage benefits from superb open views across farmland and to the Breidden Hills and boasts lovely gardens.

- 2 Bedrooms
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Oil Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Gardens
- Current EPC Rating E

Church Cottages, Four Crosses
Price: £171,500
Contact Oswestry

NO CHAIN

A delightful two bedroom detached cottage situated in a semi rural location within level walking distance of the village centre. Updated and improved by the present owners to provide a New Kitchen, new Carpets laid and a re-wire.

- UPVC DG & Conservatory
- Central Heating
- Low Maintenance Gardens
- 2 Parking Areas
- Current EPC Rating E

Clarkes Lane, St Martins
Price: £205,000
Contact Oswestry

NO CHAIN

A charming detached country cottage situated in approximately 1.280 acres of splendid gardens and grounds offering spacious characterful accommodation located in a pleasant rural location.

- 4 Bedroom (2 With En-Suites)
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Detached Garage & Parking
- Paddock & Gardens
- Approx. 1.280 Acres
- Current EPC Rating D

Waen Cottage, Llansantffraid
Price: £395,000
Contact Oswestry

NO CHAIN

A most spacious FOUR bedroom detached dormer bungalow with large gardens & garage. This property offers versatile accommodation which is warmed by gas fired central heating and benefits from UPVC double glazing.

- 4 Bedroom (2 Master Suites)
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Garage & Ample Parking
- Gardens
- Current EPC Rating D

Cabin Lane, Oswestry
Price: £249,950
Contact Oswestry

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NEW

Oswestry **41 Morda Close**
4 BED DET HOUSE
CINEMA ROOM
LOWER GROUND FLOOR
EPC RATING C
OIRO £594,950

Pen-y-garnedd **Penyboncyn**
4 BED DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING D
OIRO £449,950

St Martins **The Old Post Office**
DETACHED HOUSE
FORMER POST OFFICE
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £334,950

Welshpool **Hen Blas**
4 BED DET HOUSE
3 RECEPTION ROOMS
PERIOD FEATURES
EPC RATING F
OIRO £329,995

NEW PRICE

Llansantffraid **Glanvyrnwy House**
4 BED DETACHED
NO CHAIN
EPC RATING D
CAR PORT
ASKING PRICE £325,000

Llynclys **The Old School**
4 BED SEMI-DET BUNGALOW
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
PERIOD FEATURES
EPC RATING G
OIRO £299,950

Oswestry **The Matrons House**
3 BED DETACHED HOUSE
NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING E
OIRO £269,950

NEW PRICE

Treflach **Wddyn Cottage**
3 BED DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EN SUITE MASTER BEDROOM
EPC RATING F
OIRO £269,950

NEW

Treflach **Plot 1 Morrin**
4 BED DET HOUSE
NEW BUILD
EN SUITE MASTER BEDROOM
EPC RATING TBC
£269,950

Whittington **Sherbrook**
3 BED DETACHED BUNGALOW
CONSERVATORY
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £239,950

Haughton **Chapel Cottage**
3/4 SEMI-DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING E
OIRO £229,500

NEW

Oswestry **41 Oakhurst Road**
3 BED TERRACED HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
KITCHEN/DINER
EPC RATING E
OIRO £224,950

Maesbury Marsh **Oakdene**
3 BED DORMA BUNGALOW
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING F
OIRO £214,950

NEW

Oswestry **59 Hampton Road**
3 BED DET BUNGALOW
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
SINGLE GARAGE
EPC RATING E
ASKING PRICE £194,950

NEW

Pant **Spring Cottage**
3 BED DET COTTAGE
FORMER POST OFFICE
PERIOD FEATURES
EPC RATING F
OIRO £174,950

Oswestry **2 Upper Well Close**
3 BED TOWN HOUSE
NO CHAIN
DOWNSTAIRS WC
EPC RATING C
OIRO £169,995

NEW

Oswestry **55 Henley Drive**
3 BED DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING C
OIRO £169,995

Arddleen **20 Llwyn Perthi**
3 BED DET HOUSE
KITCHEN/ DINER
MASTER BEDROOM EN SUITE
EPC RATING D
OIRO £164,950

Oswestry **88 Middleton Road**
3 BED DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING E
OFFERS OVER £159,999

Morda **2 Sweeney Drive**
3 BED DET HOUSE
KITCHEN/ DINER
EN SUITE MASTER BEDROOM
EPC RATING C
OIRO £159,950

NEW

Oswestry **62 Whitefriars**
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING
OIRO £157,950

Whittington **Wakefield Villa**
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
PLANNING TO EXTEND
EPC RATING E
OIRO £149,950

NEW

Oswestry **15 Cae Melin Avenue**
3 BED TERRACED HOUSE
LOUNGE/DINER
TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS
EPC RATING C
OIRO £149,950

NEW

Oswestry **43 Aston Way**
2 BED DET BUNGALOW
NO CHAIN
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING D
ASKING PRICE £139,950

NEW

Llanfyllin **14 Bron Y Gaer**
4 BED TERRACED HOUSE
NO CHAIN
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £139,950

NEW

St Martins **22 Coopers Field**
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
UTILITY/STORE ROOM
FAMILY PARKING
EPC RATING E
OIRO £124,950

NEW PRICE

St Martins **2 New Terrace**
2 BED MID TERRACE
NO CHAIN
KITCHEN/DINER
EPC RATING E
OIRO £115,500

NEW PRICE

Oswestry **20 Llys Road**
2 BED END TERRACE HOUSE
KITCHEN/ DINER
EPC RATING D
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
OIRO £114,950

NEW

Oswestry **86 Willow Street**
2 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING C
OIRO £102,950

NEW PRICE

Oswestry **49 & 49a Albert Road**
TWO ONE BED APARTMENTS
NO CHAIN
EPC RATING E
INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY
OIRO £97,950

Oswestry **39 Castle Street**
2 BED MID TERRACE HOUSE
NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING E
Offers Over £89,950

NEW

Oswestry **9 Upper Lord Street**
2 BED END TERRACE HOUSE
NO CHAIN
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £84,950

NEW PRICE

Gobowen **1 Meadowbrook Court**
1 BED SEMI-DET BUNGALOW
LIVING/DINING ROOM
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING D
OPEN TO OFFERS £79,950

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LETTINGS

49 ALBERT ROAD, OSWESTRY. 1 BED FLAT	£300 PCM
5 CANALSIDE APARTMENTS, LLANYMYNECH. 2 BED FLAT	£395 PCM
CEFNUCHA, LLANSANTFFRAID. 2 BED SEMI DET HOUSE	£425 PCM
23 YORK STREET, OSWESTRY. 2 BED TERRACED HOUSE	£450 PCM
17 LORNE STREET, OSWESTRY. 2 BED TERRACED HOUSE	£450 PCM
19 SCHOOL ROAD, WEST FELTON. 2 BED TERRACED HOUSE	£450 PCM
47 ABRAHAM COURT, OSWESTRY. 1 BED APARTMENT	£470 PCM
4 CAMPBELL CLOSE, OSWESTRY. 2 BED SEMI DET HOUSE	£475 PCM
42 HEATHER CLOSE, OSWESTRY. 2 BED SEMI DET HOUSE	£475 PCM
82 MAPLE AVENUE, OSWESTRY. 3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE	£495 PCM
15 CHERRY TREE DRIVE, OSWESTRY. 3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE	£495 PCM
32 FERRERS ROAD, OSWESTRY. 3 BED TERRACED HOUSE	£495 PCM
19 HERITAGE WAY, LLANYMYNECH. 4 BED TOWN HOUSE	£550 PCM

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RICS

NEW

Cae Onan Morda £206,995

- A spacious and well appointed 4 Bedroom Detached Family Home
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Cloak Room
- 4 Bedrooms (master en-suite) and Family Bathroom
- Good size rear garden, integral garage & ample off-road parking
- Gas C/H, and uPVC double glazing throughout. EPC Rating C

NEW

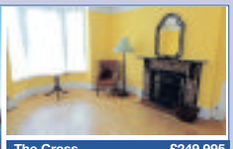
Oak Drive Oswestry £249,995

- Superb 4 Bed Detached House
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility, Cloakroom
- 4 Beds, En-Suite, Family Bathroom
- Ample Off-Road Parking, Enclosed Rear Garden
- Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, EPC Rating

NEW

Whittington Road Oswestry £149,995

- A deceptively spacious 3 Bedroom Town House situated in a popular position
- Ent Hall, Lounge, Dining/Sitting Rm, Kitchen/Breakfast Rm, Cellar
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room
- 2 further Double Bedrooms and large Family Bathroom
- In an elevated position, rear garden extending to approx. 80 feet
- Gas Central Heating. EPC Rating E



NEW - NO CHAIN

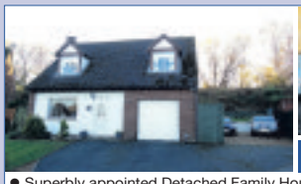
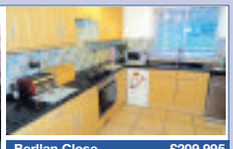
The Cross Gobowen £249,995

- Period Detached house extensively renovated by the current owners
- Entrance Hall, Cellar, Lounge, Family Room, Study, Dining Room
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility, Cloakroom, Master Bedroom (En-Suite)
- 3 further Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Good size garden to the rear and ample off-road parking to the front
- Gas fired central heating is installed. EPC Rating E

NEW - NO CHAIN

The Cross Weston Rhyn £189,995

- A spacious 3 Bedroom End-Terrace Property
- Formerly the Doctor's Surgery dating back to the late 1800's
- Ent Hall, Lounge, Dining/Living Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Cloakroom, Cellar, 2 Double Bedrooms, Wet Room
- Second Floor Master Suite with En-Suite Shower Room
- Excellent garden to rear with flowering beds & mature shrubs
- Double glazing and oil fired central heating. EPC Rating E

Berllan Close Weston Rhyn £209,995

- Superbly appointed Detached Family House
- Situated within walking distance of the centre of Weston Rhyn
- Entrance Hall, Living Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Cloakroom
- 4 Excellent Bedrooms and a Family Bathroom.
- Oil fired C/H, uPVC D/G & spacious gardens. EPC Rating D

Hampton Rise Oswestry £249,995

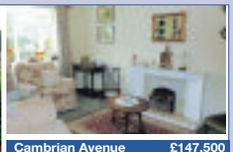
- Immaculately presented 3 Bedroom Detached Bungalow set in a corner plot
- 'L' shaped Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Dining Room
- 3 Further Bedrooms and Family Bathroom with Wet Room area
- Landscaped gardens with raised terraced area, single garage & 2 driveways
- uPVC double glazing and gas fired central heating. EPC Rating D

MORDA Road Oswestry £625,000

- A rare opportunity to purchase an immaculately presented 6 bedroom executive family home standing within generous grounds extending to approximately 0.5 acre
- Constructed approximately 10 years ago and was finished to the highest of standards. With light and spacious rooms which are spread over 3 floors all accessed off a glazed atrium at the heart of the property
- Landscaped gardens with a large terrace area to the rear and a gated driveway providing security and off road parking, large Double Garage and Log Cabin. EPC Rating C

Rectory Terrace Welsh Frankton £150,000

- A rare opportunity to purchase a 4 Bedroom End-Terrace Property
- Standing in terraced gardens and grounds extending to 0.22 acre
- Stunning views over open countryside towards Rodney's Pillar
- Sun Room, Cloaks, Living/Dining Room, Kitchen, Lounge
- 4 Bedrooms and Shower Room
- Externally a raised patio area takes full advantage of the views
- Formal gardens and vegetable plots. Oil C/H. D/G. EPC Rating E



NO CHAIN

Cambrian Avenue Whittington £147,500

- A most delightful spacious and extended Semi-Detached House
- Sitting Room, Snug, Kitchen, Landing, Two Bedrooms, Family Bathroom.
- Delightful gardens to the fore with ample parking for several cars
- Fully enclosed south facing rear garden and with views
- Gas fired central heating, Double Glazing, EPC Rating C

Arddleen Nr Welshpool £299,995

- A most comfortably appointed and spacious Modern Detached Residence only twelve years old, built to very high standards
- Storm Porch, Reception Hall, Cloaks, Study. Spacious Lounge, Sitting Rm, Dining Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Master Bedroom & Guest Bedroom (both en-suite), 2 Further Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom
- LPG Gas C/H, high security D/G, intruder alarm, dble garage & ample parking on driveway. EPC Rating D

Pentre Aaron Weston Rhyn

- A rare Agricultural Investment opportunity comprising a block of accommodation land extending to 15 acres (6.07 ha) or thereabouts conveniently located just off the A5/A483 between Oswestry and Weston Rhyn
- The land is currently laid to pasture but would accommodate a host of arable or fodder crops
- The land is sold subject to a 1986 Agricultural Holdings Act Tenancy. For further details please contact the Selling Agents Oswestry office on (01691) 652367.

Meadow Way Gobowen £159,995

- A spacious 4 Bedroom Semi-Detached Property
- Ent Hall, Lounge, Open Plan Kitchen/Dining Room
- Utility, Cloaks & Conservatory
- 4 Bedrooms and a Family Bathroom, single garage & driveway
- D/G and Gas C/H. EPC Rating D

Barber Close Oswestry £174,995

- A well appointed and deceptively spacious 4/5 Bedroom, 3 Storey Townhouse
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, well fitted Kitchen/Dining Room
- Utility Room, Study/Bedroom 5, Lounge
- 2 Bedrooms and Bathroom with 2 further large Bedrooms (master en-suite)
- A paved patio area to the rear and a lawned garden to the side
- Single garage and driveway, Gas C/H and uPVC D/G. EPC Rating B

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If by fax or email, please remember to include an address and contact number.

HAMLINGTON

Brian

Passed away peacefully with his loving Family around him on January 5, 2014, after a short illness, aged 75 years.

Much loved Husband of Janet and devoted Father of Brett and Adam.

Committal Service to be held at Pentrebychan Crematorium Wrexham, on Monday, January 20, at 10am, followed by a Service of Celebration at Christ Church, Oswestry, at 11.30am.

Black need not be worn.

Family flowers only.

Donations if desired to The West Midland Air Ambulance.

All inquiries to

DAVID DAVIES AND SONS

1 Upper Church Street

Oswestry

Telephone 01691 653116.

HURDSMAN

Patricia

nee Grafton

Formerly of Oswestry.

Peacefully on January 8, 2014, aged 79 years.

Beloved Wife of Kenneth, Mother of Stephen, Susan and Darren, Grandmother of Clare and Corrine and Great-Grandmother to four Great-Grandchildren.

Funeral Service at Emstrey Crematorium, Shrewsbury, on Tuesday, January 21, at 3.15pm.

Donations if desired to the Severn Hospice.

All inquiries to

DAVID DAVIES & SONS

1 Upper Church Street

Oswestry

Telephone 01691 653116.

JONES

Isobel Faulkner Whitfield

Peacefully on January 3, 2014. Formerly of Pentre David.

Wife of the late Arthur and very much loved Mother of Victoria, Diana and Alex.

Funeral Service at Emstrey Crematorium, Shrewsbury, on Wednesday, January 22, at 3.15pm.

Family flowers only.

Donations if desired to SSAFA and Jack Berry House.

All inquiries to

DAVID DAVIES & SONS

1 Upper Church Street

Oswestry

Telephone 01691 653116.

OTT

Cynthia Margaret

nee Long

Passed peacefully away on January 6, 2014.

Much loved Wife of James and a treasured Sister of Mary and Hilary.

Funeral Service at St Oswald's Parish Church, Oswestry on Tuesday, January 28, at 2.30pm, followed by Cremation at Emstrey Crematorium, Shrewsbury, at 4pm.

Family flowers only.

Donations if desired to Cancer Research UK and New Fairholme Comfort Fund.

All inquiries to

DAVID DAVIES & SONS

1 Upper Church Street

Oswestry

Telephone 01691 653116.

SEAGER

Margaret

Of Bomere Heath, Shrewsbury. On January 6, 2014, aged 81 years.

The beloved Wife of John.

Service at Shrewsbury Crematorium, on Friday, January 24, 2014, at 12 noon.

No flowers by request.

Donations if wished to Action for Children, for which purpose a collection box will be provided at the Crematorium.

Inquiries please to

CLIVE PUGH
Funeral Directors
95, Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY2 6BB
Telephone: 01743 244644

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BEKO SMALL Upright freezer, in good working order, £30, 01691 650277

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DIMPLEX OIL HEATER In good working order, £35, Telephone 01691 650277

DOUBLE DIVAN BED 18 months old, with head board, £100, 01691 650277

FORD ESCORT VAN 1.8 Diesel, V Reg, spares or repair, £200, 01691 681840 07790 523363

KENWOOD BREADMAKER In very good condition, £30, 01691 650277

LAMINATOR BACKLOADER A4 including various pouches as new condition, £5, 01691 670071

LARGE BROWN LEATHER DFS Lounge chair, £75, 01691 650277

MOUNTAIN BIKE 8-10 gears, 24"-26" wheels very tidy, £30, 01691 659559

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SLAM STUNT SCOOTER brand new, £45, 01691 661690

YORK MULTI GYM hardly used, fully assembled, £170, ono, buyer collects. Oswestry 07843 479618

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*Source: ABC

Group Health and Safety Manager

Based in Telford, Shropshire (with travel to other Group Sites). Salary: £35k - £45k dependent upon experience. Permanent. Full time.

SP Holding Group Limited works within the Drainage Services; Plant and Event Hire; Transport and Fabrication industries and are currently recruiting for the role of Health and Safety Manager, to work across the group. You will be required to provide a proactive, high quality, professional service on all aspects of health, safety and welfare at work matters to all divisions of the group. You will need to be qualified to a minimum of NEBOSH Certificate, with excellent knowledge of current and relevant Health and Safety acts and regulations. Previous experience, in a Health and Safety management role, within a relevant / similar industry is essential.

Application forms, Job Description and more information from Linda Richardson: 01952 501155
Email: linda.richardson@spholding.co.uk
Closing date: Midday, Friday 24th January 2014.

PERSONAL CARE ASSISTANTS REQUIRED

We are looking for 2 female PA's to join our team to assist us to live in our own homes.

We both have spinal injuries and other medical problems. You must be personable, reliable, have a good sense of humour, your own car and a willingness to understand the difficulties of living with a disability.

The posts are for shifts on a rolling 4 weekly rota with sleep-in's and must be able to cover for holidays and sickness.

This is a different type of PA job as you must have the ability to undertake personal care duties, housework, cooking, gardening, helping with our animals, not afraid to don wellies and get your hands dirty.

We are both in our sixties but young at heart.

IMMEDIATE STARTING DATES AVAILABLE

Still interested then ring for more details:

07778 036620

Fundraising Assistant | *Shrewsbury*

Job Description & Responsibilities
Duration: Temporary, fulltime, 6 months (initial)
Salary: Up to £14,000pa pro rata, depending on experience
Date to be appointed: asap

Description & Duties
- The Fundraising Assistant's main task is to increase the contributions of individuals and groups to Signal by building relationships and exploring new fundraising opportunities.
- Research new donors, both individual and groups/organisations.
- Maintain and develop a database of potential and current donors.
- Support the Fundraising Officer in production of grant application.
- Co-ordinate community fundraising events and volunteers
- To prepare fundraising documents and other supporting materials.
- Administration of fundraising and other routine tasks.

Person Specification
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Confident talking to a variety of different people
- Experience as a fundraiser
- Good experience of using Microsoft Office
- Preferably educated to degree level

Please apply with a CV and covering letter stating why you would like the job and how your skills apply to the position
Email: jamescousins@signal.org.uk
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Applicants must be smart and well presented with a good knowledge of the local area. Duties will be to load and unload vehicle, to be responsible for the general housekeeping of the vehicle.

Must be 25+ for insurance purposes. Yard duties will include replenishing stock, loading and unloading customers and supplier deliveries along with general maintenance and housekeeping of the site

If you feel you are what we require forward your CV to Matt@jcevans.co.uk or call on 01743 366 117

OPENING MINDS WIDENING HORIZONS

Mary Webb School & Science College
Pontesbury, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY5 0TG
Headteacher: Mr A J Smith BSc MSc.
Tel: 01743 792100
Email: admin@marywebbschool.com
Website: www.marywebbschool.com

Teaching Assistants: 2 x Level 1 and 1 x Level 2

(Required 24.02.14 or as soon as possible thereafter)

Mary Webb School and Science College is a successful and popular specialist science college, situated in a beautiful location, a few miles south of Shrewsbury.

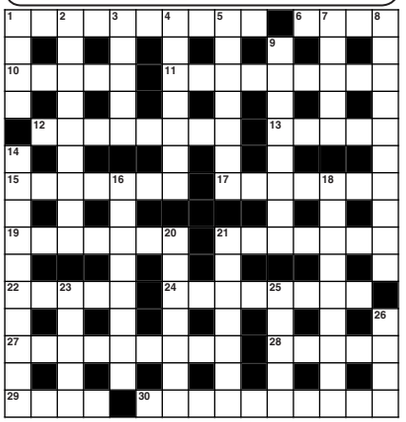
We are looking for teaching assistants to join our expanding and successful personalised learning department, to provide general classroom support and/or support to named individuals. All posts are 25 hours per week, term time plus 3 PD days. The Level 2 post and one Level 1 post are permanent; the other Level 1 post is fixed term to 31 August 2014.

Further details and an application pack are available from the school. Alternatively, they can be downloaded from the school website.

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Closing date: Wednesday, 29 January 2014
Interviews to be held: Week beginning Monday, 3 February 2014

CROSSWORD



Compiled by Roger F. Squires

ACROSS

1 Foreign settlement? (10)
6 Land in the water (4)
10 Agitated nun that is upset about the tedium of life (5)
11 There are strong links between its members (5,4)
12 It shows intelligence (8)
13 He may be found in a wrongful act (5)
15 Exercise restraint about newspapers (7)
17 Discipline needed since conversion to church (7)
19 Exercise done by a prisoner (7)
21 Restoration novel in authentic setting (7)
22 A Greek (5)
24 Attacked as the ship left port (8)
27 In effect I turn out to be capable (9)
28 Directions to prosecute follow (5)
29 Part of the body one's broken? (4)
30 He goes riding after the ball (4,6)

DOWN

1 Perfectly original plot? (4)
2 A host of local supporters (9)
3 They fly or take a train (5)
4 Watches teachers marking correctly? (7)
5 They gave advice so wise and so clear perhaps (7)
7 Condition no true anarchist will accept (5)
8 Sound indication that a watch is finished (5,5)
9 Idleness in battle (8)
14 He's a hard case (10)
16 A way to gain an admission (8)
18 State of recently purchased garment? (3,6)
20 Stop on board (5,2)
21 Its root may be made into a stew (7)
23 They may be powder or cream (5)
25 Lad that is treated right may become perfect (5)
26 Expensive address (4)

LAST WEEKS RESULTS

Across: 1 Indent, 4 Thrown in, 9 Siskin, 10 Odd types, 12 Guam, 13 Elbow, 14 Well, 17 Inconsistent, 20 Afterthought, 23 Adam, 24 March, 25 Lore, 28 Rhetoric, 29 Strata, 30 War paint, 31 Goethe.

Down: 1 Insignia, 2 Dispatch, 3 Nail, 5 Hydrostatics, 6 Oath, 7 Naples, 8 Nestle, 11 Alliteration, 15 Snuff, 16 Union, 18 Ignorant, 19 Steerage, 21 Barrow, 22 Career, 26 Soda, 27 Otto.

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TIPS OF THE WEEK

SUCH is the reputation that McDonald Landrover has built up at Oswestry that the company now offers services to owners of other makes of 4x4. New, fully trained staff have been recruited as the business expands to accommodate an increased demand to cater for all 4x4 brands. -We have taken on new staff who are experienced and trained on other makes and we have invested in the very best diagnostic equipment," said Rupert Astbury, at the Mile Oak Industrial Estate site. The business was purchased in 2001 as a small parts supply operation and moved to the current larger premises in 2002, opening the workshop with one mechanic. The business now has five people in the workshop, three on parts and one in the office. Parts stockholding is over £100,000 and any part that is not on the shelf can be obtained for the next day. McDonald Landrover also has a thriving website shop and are aiming to have the ability for customers to book cars into the workshop online later this year. The workshop staff have a wealth of experience backed up by the latest vehicle-specific diagnostic equipment, meaning any problem on any Land Rover from 1948 to the present day can be worked on. Servicing is undertaken using genuine Land Rover service parts ensuring that all vehicles still within their warranty period receive the correct work. -We are looking forward to 2012 being our best yet," said Rupert. -We have a very strong team, excellent work ethic and a determination to give the customer value for money," he added. When it comes to Land Rover servicing there is nobody better than McDonald Landrover, specialising in the maintenance of all Land Rover makes and models. The company has built up a solid client base in the Shropshire area over a number of years with a reputation for servicing of the highest quality.

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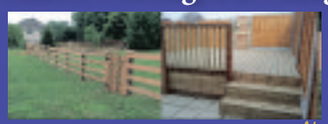

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For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options).

Pick ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

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Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

Theatre Showstopper from £199.95

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade. Two nights stay at a four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply) and a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance for the Theatre Showstopper package.

**The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.*

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For a theatre brochure call the Promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go to shropshirestar.com/starextratravel

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Best place to share ideas and find out what works

A NEW year is often a time for looking forward, for planning ahead and for making changes whether in our personal lives or in business so what better time for us to try out some of the "blue sky thinking" that businesses in Oswestry do so well?

Our membership is made up of a wide range of business types from one man bands to large employers in and around the town. In recent months it has become clear to me that the recession, whilst incredibly tough for all of us has, in many cases, brought out the best in the business community of Oswestry.

Hard times of any kind have a tendency to focus the mind and for some of us embracing change has been the only way to survive and yet, when times are hard, we can struggle to be creative, positive and forward thinking without a little help.

Oswestry Chamber of Commerce works hard to bring together business owners of all types so that we can share information, test ideas and make the very most of what we have to offer. Small changes can make a big difference and needn't cost the earth. I would urge anyone operating a business in our area to come along to one of our meetings, get to know some of the creative local people who have weathered the recent storms and find out how they have done it and share your ideas too. This way we can all make the most of our strong community and benefit from the knowledge and experience right on our doorstep.

The Chamber meets on the first Wednesday of the month at the Wynnstay Hotel, 6pm-7pm. The next meeting is February 5, visitors are guaranteed a warm welcome.

For details please visit **www.oswestrychamber.org.uk** or call Heather Noble on 01691 700800.

Heather Noble
Chairman
Oswestry Chamber of Commerce

Expanding firm invests in solar energy system

AN Oswestry company that has invested £400,000 in larger premises and state-of-the-art machinery has used a local firm to ensure that its new factory is as energy efficient as possible.

CV Rollers, of Oswestry, has been in business for over 50 years and manufacturers precision components and award-winning cargo securing systems for the transport and conveyor industry.

by Graham Breeze

Following its recent move to large new premises in Maesbury Road, the company teamed up with local specialists, iGreen Energy of Oswestry, who have now created a bespoke solar system to provide the company with all its power and heating requirements.

Calvin Jones of iGreen Energy said: "We have installed 164 panels – the most highly efficient currently available – on the roof of the building and these provide over 40 Kilowatts of power.

Reduce

This equates to 33,000 units of electricity per year, and should provide a saving of around £8,000 on their current annual electricity costs."

Joint managing director of CV Rollers, Kevin Taylor, said: "We are constantly looking to reduce our carbon footprint and like to use local services wherever possible and in this case, iGreen Energy tendered the most competitive quote as well as providing an extremely quick construction period, as we were on a very tight timescale for the total project to be completed.

"Calvin and his team worked out exactly what we needed to put in place and also sourced a cash-neutral finance package to save our capital expenditure, meaning that we will recover the whole project costs after a period of only five years.

"We are delighted to be working in conjunction with such a progressive local firm and believe that this solar system they have created will play a major part in energy savings and the continued success and expansion of CV Rollers."

Calvin Jones of iGreen Energy on the roof with Kevin Taylor and Colin Derbyshire of CV Rollers at Oswestry.

Lawyers say January sees more divorces

AN OSWESTRY law firm says January is the month when divorce figures increase.

And staff at Lanyon Bowdler say they have the expertise to ensure that all legal procedures and options are explored.

"It is well known that the festive season and the stress associated with it can lead to breaking point for many couples," said a spokesman. "January is the month which sadly sees a rise in divorce figures.

"It is thought that the lifestyles we pursue play a major part in divorce rates and that the "all work and no play" philosophy is a major factor on divorce and separation.

"An experienced family solicitor can take an enormous amount of the stress and worry away from the divorce process and allow the people to focus on the important task of protecting their emotional welfare, and if applicable, that of their children."

Mayor is backing new jobs project

OSWESTRY'S mayor has echoed calls for more inward investment from overseas, with hopes the move could bring about a new innovation park for the town creating up to 3,000 jobs.

Councillor Chris Schofield said he "fully backed" the work to establish Oswestry Innovation Park. The park is on a shortlist of Shropshire-based projects which county leaders, supported by Daniel Kawczynski, MP for Shrewsbury & Atcham, are championing as potential investment opportunities from overseas.

Talks have been held with UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) – the Government arm that encourages inward investment and promotes exporting – over the plans.

Councillor Schofield, said: "I think the work Daniel is doing is absolutely fantastic and I would back him without a shadow of doubt.

"I actually think things could be looking on the up in Oswestry at last and to have the prospect of thousands of jobs around the corner is welcome news."

Details put together by Shropshire Council on the potential investment opportunities outline the ambitious plans for the 23 hectare site.

The council says: "This is a major commercial and industrial investment opportunity."

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Wedding fair helps make biggest day hassle-free

Advertisement feature

A WEDDING day is the most exciting day of a couple's life together and at the Albrighton Hall Hotel, they want you to enjoy every second of it.

That's why organisers are delighted to be hosting a wedding fair at the venue on Sunday and look forward to welcoming couples there.

A dash of flair, a touch of imagination, and attention to detail – essential ingredients for that perfect day.

The fair will include everything a couple could wish for, from beautiful wedding gowns, men's suit hire, to jewellery and hairstyling to catwalk fashion shows.

A hotel spokesman said: "We all know that many couples find knowing where to start and finding the right firms to go to can be quite daunting which is why our wedding fair is so important as we have companies on hand ready to talk to them.

"A dedicated professional wedding co-coordinator, who has the experience and knowledge to anticipate every concern and every desire is assigned to each wedding party – just talk them through your perfect wedding day and they'll tailor the entire event to create the kind of occasion you and your wedding party will never forget."

Drawing on their experience of countless weddings in every style imaginable, they'll listen carefully to ideas and add suggestions and work with the couple every step of the way from the very first meeting to the last waltz to ensure nothing detracts from their perfect day.

"With a selection of elegant rooms, including stunning honeymoon suites, your first night at Albrighton Hall will help the couple relax into married life – ending a perfect day in a luxurious four poster bed. Sunday's event will run from 11am to 4pm with catwalk bridal shows with hair and make-up demonstrations as well as a free draw. Entry is free," the spokesman added.

"There's a range of wedding packages available at the hotel which has 86 luxury bedrooms and honeymoon suites, a spa and a natural health and fitness beauty club.

"Choose from a variety of function rooms to suit all sizes of party and enjoy celebrated wines and cuisine at the lakeside venue, which is set in 15 acres of gardens."

The bride and groom will enjoy their big day at Albrighton Hall.

Wrexham Wedding Trail

Friday 24th, Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th January
11am to 3pm
Around Wrexham Town Centre and at the Wynnstay Arms Hotel
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• First Lady

2 TOWN HILL
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• Richard Hughes Jeweller
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3 HOPE STREET
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6 YORKE STREET
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7 CHESTER STREET
• Martin Rees Jewellers

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• New Wave (Hairdressers)
• Fairy Tale (Dresses)
• Adore Boutique

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Volunteer helpers thanked for work

VOLUNTEERS who help out at Oswestry Library have been thanked for their efforts.

A get-together was held to recognise the hard work the volunteers at the library do throughout the year.

The gathering was held at the library in Arthur Street and guests heard about the amount of free time the library's volunteers give up for their community.

Bosses say that work carried out by the volunteers helps ensure numerous service can be delivered at the library.

They have revealed that in total 2,680 hours were offered by 32 adult local volunteers at the library.

The volunteers offered their services during local history sessions as well as to offer help with information technology.

They also helped during special events and activities at the library and offered further help through the Friends of Oswestry Library group and in providing a home library service.

The volunteers have also helped provide sessions to the public looking at local and family history.

They have help offer 93 history sessions and helped deal with 307 inquiries.

Bosses say young people have also offered up their time at the library through the Duke of Edinburgh

Warning to dog owners as badger snares discovered

SHROPSHIRE Wildlife Trust has warned dog owners to be careful after badger snares were found on a wildlife reserve at Llynclys.

The snares, which are illegal, were found at Dolgoch Quarry, and can prove fatal to other animals including pet dogs.

Stuart Edmunds, spokesman for Shropshire Wildlife Trust, said: "A member of the public last week found badger snares set up around badger setts at Dolgoch Quarry near Llynclys. It is illegal to use the snares – which are designed to wrap around a badger's throat and pull tight as the animal struggles - to kill badgers, but most worryingly was the fact that these snares were found on a nature reserve which is there to provide a refuge for wildlife without risk.

by Pam Kingsley

"Another massive issue with the use of snares like this is the danger they pose to dogs. Although the snares are set around the entrance to badger setts, when being walked dogs are likely to come into contact with the snares when they venture towards setts.

Appeal

"The snares found were made of a variety of materials, from electric fence cable to baler twine. They didn't have the appearance of professional snares.

"We need to get an appeal out to the public to make sure that people take care when walking their dogs."

It is illegal to deliberately snare a badger except under special licence, and snares which continues to tighten as the animal struggles to escape are always illegal. Snares should never be set on a badger run or in an area of known badger activity, and anyone setting a snare in a position where it is likely to catch a badger could be breaking the law. Anyone setting a snare is also breaking the law if all reasonable precautions are not taken to prevent injury to protected and domestic animals.

Anyone finding a snare similar to the one found in Dolgoch Quarry is asked to contact their local police station and the RSPCA.

New members wanted by Lions

A GROUP which has become a mainstay in Oswestry's fundraising efforts is looking to recruit new members.

Oswestry Lions Club wants to expand its already substantial charitable and social activities.

The group raises funds for a wide range of good causes to the benefit of individuals and groups in need, mainly locally based, but also both nationally and internationally as part of one of the world's largest voluntary service organisations.

Club member Clive Humphries said: "Many Oswestrians will be familiar with some of our regular events, like the spring and autumn plant sales and deliveries, the real ale festival in the Memorial Hall and the fortnightly bingo sessions, also in the Memorial Hall. With more man and woman power we could do even more."

For more information contact Mr Humphries on (01691) 653273 or e-mail him at **clivehumf@tiscali.co.uk**

Student lands job on The Times

Oswestry Chronicle **associate editor Graham Breeze, left, and Joshua Boswell.**

CHRONICLE work experience student Joshua Boswell has landed a job on a national newspaper.

Joshua, 21, has joined *The Times* as a digital journalist, working with both the on-line and print teams.

His new job, based at *The Times'* London headquarters, will see him promoting the wider use of digital tools in national and international news coverage, adding interactive elements to stories on the on-line and tablet editions of the newspaper.

Joshua joined the Certificate of HE in Journalism at Glyndwr University at Wrexham in September after completing his degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics at the University of York where he was also deputy editor of his student newspaper. He had been on work placement with the *Oswestry and Border Chronicle* at Oswestry as part of the journalism course.

The *Chronicle's* associate editor Graham Breeze predicted a big future for the young journalist.

"This is an opportunity of a lifetime," he said.

Poet link as town marks war anniversary

OSWESTRY, the birthplace of war poet Wilfred Owen, will be staging a number of events to mark this year's centenary of the First World War.

A group called the World War One/Wilfred Owen Project Group has been established to organise the events.

One of the main projects will be a town trail taking visitors to important points of interest connected to Wilfred Owen, who was born at Plas Wilmot on March 18, 1893 and was killed days before the armistice.

Oswestry businessman John Waine is spearheading the project and says that the trail is more or less complete.

It will include 15 points of interest around town that were special to Wilfred Owen and his family.

It will include Plas Wilmot, in Weston Lane, where the family lived for the first four years of Owen's life; The Broadwalk, off Church Street, where a plaque and bench exists, and the Wilfred Owen Green.

The Oswestry Welsh Border Tourism Association is trailing the trail before its formal launch in 2014.

There could also be a civic service on August 3 at 11am in St Oswald's Parish Church although that date still has to be confirmed.

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The team understands how some patients may feel uneasy about their appointments and prides itself on making the experience as relaxed and as positive as possible.

The practice believes that preventive care and education is the key for good oral health for both adults and children.

Thorough dental examinations are provided which include checking the overall health of your teeth and gums. Staff perform oral cancer screening and take X-rays when necessary as well as utilising cameras to improve patients' understanding of their oral health.

Patients are then advised on the best ways to help prevent decay and gum disease or treat them early before problems advance.

For those patients who are looking to improve the beauty of their smile, perhaps considering tooth whitening, cosmetic orthodontics, dental implants or amalgam removal, Thomas and Emily have many years' experience in cosmetic dentistry and will spend time to find the solution that's right for you.

Pauline Gates, hygienist, and dentists Emily Wright and Thomas Norlin at Esthetique Dental Practice.

Teeth are for more than just chewing, many patients can live their lives covering their smile, hiding behind their hands when laughing or talking since they feel embarrassed by their teeth.

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Business as usual despite gas work

TRADERS in Ellesmere have declared it as business as usual despite work starting on a £100,000 gas pipe replacement scheme.

Wales & West Utilities has warned of disruption while it upgrades the gas network in Ellesmere town centre to improve services for users.

Work is set to take about four weeks to complete in Cross Street, Market Street and Scotland Street.

But Lincoln McMullan, chairman of Ellesmere Chamber of Commerce and owner of The Signtists in Scotland Street, is urging people not to be put off from coming into the town despite the disruption.

Mr McMullan said: "Ellesmere has got a bit of a one-way system at the moment but all roads are accessible.

"There is a small diversion but it's easy after you have done it once. Ellesmere is open for business and all shops are open.

"Businesses are working with the utility company to make everything run smoothly. We will review the situation in a few weeks time.

"We appreciate it is necessary work."

WWU bosses said it will be necessary to introduce temporary traffic management measures which will be agreed with Shropshire Council.

Nurse Rebecca looks back on Afghan TA tour

NURSING is one of the most challenging of careers, with long hours, a responsibility to care, the need to work with strict rules and regulations and the pressure of dealing with people who are suffering and their families on a daily basis.

But for Rebecca Warren, a nurse at Oswestry's Orthopaedic Hospital, those challenges have become easier since she spent four months working in Afghanistan with the British Army.

As well as handling the responsibilities of being ward manager on the busy spinal injuries ward at the hospital, Rebecca is also a member of the Territorial Army.

Volunteer

After signing up as an army reserve volunteer in 2005, she worked as a staff nurse until she was deployed onto a four-month operational tour in Afghanistan in 2009.

"I really believe that my experience in Afghanistan has vastly improved my nursing skills and has given me confidence in my abilities," she said.

"The adventurous and challenging training means I am certainly fitter.

"I have gained valuable experience, nursing in different environments and have experienced trauma in the very acute stage. I learned to nurse under extreme pressure and I now have the ability to cope with situations which would normally have been way outside my comfort zone."

WOMEN OF SUBSTANCE
with Pam Kingsley

On her return to the UK, Rebecca was promoted to ward sister, and in July last year took a secondment as ward manager until another planned deployment to Afghanistan in November. However, when she was offered the chance to make her new role permanent, she took the opportunity, passing up the deployment.

Rebecca has always wanted to specialise in spinal injuries. She said: "My nursing career began in 2002, when I first started working on the Midlands Centre for Spinal Injuries as a student nurse. After requesting that my elective placement be spent on spinal injuries in 2003, I then qualified as a nurse in 2004 and was given the permanent role as staff nurse on MCSI.

"During my time spent on MCSI, I experienced different roles within nursing, both challenging and rewarding, although at times can be disheartening.

"My deployment to Afghanistan have given me the confidence to face new challenges in nursing."

Rebecca Warren is a nurse and a member of the Territorial Army.

Agents sell 400-acre dairy farm for £5m

A COUNTY dairy farm of nearly 400 acres has been sold for £5 million.

A Shropshire family has bought Park Hall Farm, near Ellesmere, as well as the milking portion of its 260 cow dairy herd.

The sale was completed by Shropshire agents Halls on behalf of Tedsmore Hall Services Ltd.

Halls' director Allen Gittins, who handled the sale, said: "It was one of the most important farms to become available in Shropshire for many years and had been the subject of substantial investment in the previous 12 months.

"The high level of interest from potential purchasers from across the country was a tribute to the investment made in this quality farm. We also negotiated the sale of the milking portion of the dairy herd to the new owner and held a successful dispersal sale at Shrewsbury Auction Centre in December."

Lunch club date

PONTROBERT Lunch Club held its first meeting of the new year on Friday at the village hall.

Meetings include a time to socialise and enjoy a hot lunch followed by some entertainment. New members are always welcome. Call (01938) 500483.

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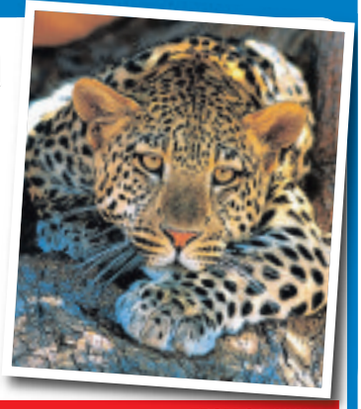

The holiday includes 13 nights bed and breakfast accommodation in specially selected three and four-star hotels, three evening meals and a variety of stunning excursions.

For most visitors the highlight will be a full day's game drive that brings the chance to see the sweeping savannah and muddy waterholes lined with animals, and to marvel at the incredible 150 mammal and 500 bird species that live in the Kruger National Park, including the 'big five': elephant, lion, rhino, leopard and buffalo. Rooms are reserved at the three-star superior Hippo Hollow Country Estate, located in the midst of lush forest on the banks of the Sabie River. It's open-air terrace overlooks the grounds and river, so watch out for the hippos!

Those interested in history will be intrigued by the visit to Zululand, passing through Swaziland en route, to reach the haunting battlefields of Islandlwana and Rorke's Drift. In 1879 these two battles, just a day apart, became a defining moment for the British Empire and the specialist Zulu guide will make those desperate encounters come alive.

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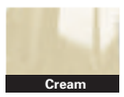

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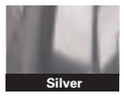

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Meeting looks at views of disability

PEOPLE'S perception of disability will be tackled at a public meeting in Oswestry later this month.

The talks have been organised by the Oswestry Equality Group, a new organisation established to explore social issues.

The group has invited students from the Derwen College at Gobowen, a specialist college for people with learning and physical difficulties, to attend the meeting and to speak about their experiences.

Equality Group spokesman Penny Rice said: "The students will be helping us to address people's perceptions of both learning and physical disabilities.

"We would very much like to invite local sixth formers, as we feel that a knowledge and understanding of disabilities can be important for their future careers"

"The whole evening is aimed at being interactive, educational and fun."

The talks will be held on January 23 at 7.30pm in Eastern Oswestry Community Centre, Cabin Lane, Oswestry.

Admission is £1 to include refreshments, or free for young people.

The members will tackle of whole host of issues this year ranging from zero hours contracts to pay day loans and from loneliness to racism.

Bowling club photo found in memorabilia collection

by Toby Neal

IT'S amazing how ancient photos can suddenly come to light to be enjoyed by 21st century Salopians.

And this is an example, dating back just over 100 years, showing members of Oswestry Bowling Club, with their smart posing and the neat composition a contrast to the higgledy-piggledy way the bowls are lying on the ground. It is one of two loaned by John Lythe, (pronounced "Lith", by the way) of Whittington, but actually we have his late brother to thank for its survival.

He said: "The photographs belonged to my brother Douglas who passed away last year. He was in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1946 and collected anything to do with Oswestry.

"His sons and cleared out his house, where he had lived on his own.

Gully

"It's amazing the stuff he kept, especially the photograph of the bowling club, which is in quite good condition.

"I think they had a really good idea in those days.

"In front of the bowlers they have three boys who I assume picked up the bowls out of the gully."

John has been in touch with the owner of the Wynnstay Hotel and has given him a copy of the bowling club picture so that he can put it up in the hotel.

"The picture was taken on the green at the back of the Wynnstay Hotel."

The building in the picture used to be stables.

John added: "In those days they had their own horses, but now it's a fitness centre, but the outside of the building is still the same. My brother lived in Oswestry in Lime Grove. He was very interested in things to do with his home town.

"He never threw anything away. He worked in the building trade. He was a joiner. When he left the navy he got a job at Barlows, which is an old Oswestry building firm and worked there most of his life."

The photo has a caption printed on the hard card frame – "Oswestry Bowling Club, Wynnstay Hotel. Mr Bert Clarke. President, 1912."

It doesn't say which one is the President, but presumably he is one of those who was given the luxury of a chair to sit on while the photograph was taken.

We'll shine the spotlight on the second of the two pictures, which also features Oswestry sportsmen but is even older than this photo, next week.

"Oswestry Bowling Club, Wynnstay Hotel. Mr Bert Clarke, President, 1912" – That is printed on the hard card frame below this print. This picture was loaned by John Lythe of Whittington.

Foodbank launch to meet need of people

A WELSH Assembly Member on the Shropshire border is planning to establish a foodbank in his constituency.

Clwyd South AM Ken Skates, who represents communities including Chirk and the Ceiriog Valley, say people in his area are "going hungry every day". He is calling for community groups to help him set up a foodbank.

Mr Skates says he is keen for more of the volunteer-run projects to open with national charity the Trussell Trust. He said: "Every day people in Clwyd South and across Wales are going hungry.

"Trussell Trust foodbanks provide three-day emergency supply parcels with nutritionally balanced food, but they can only continue to do so with the support of the public and community groups. Rising costs of food, fuel and energy drinks combined with static income, high unemployment and changes to benefits are causing more and more people to go to foodbanks for help."

He added: "If anyone would like to discuss the possibility of setting one up in Clwyd South I would urge them to contact me by e-mailing **Ken.Skates@Wales.gov.uk** or by calling my office on (01978) 869058 and we can take it from there."

Advertisement Feature

Poet Brian offers help with finding right words

IF YOU are looking for a touching or meaningful poem for that special occasion an Oswestry man may have the answer.

Brian Stone takes commissions for personal poems covering a wide range of subjects and sentiments, often weaving unusual aspects skilfully around deeply felt feelings and messages.

For many years Brian has written scripts, short speeches and prose. Poetry came to the fore with the passing of his beloved wife Christine when his grief manifested itself through his ability as a poet.

The result was a torrent of heart felt feelings woven into a touching fabric of verse.

Many readers of his book, *My Journey Through Grief,* have shed tears over the content while his poetry has now moved on to encompass humour, satire, messaging and children's poetry.

Bands

A percussion teacher, Brian began playing drums age the age of 13. He worked in West
End nightclubs before joining bands on ocean liners.

On his marriage Brian moved to Stoke in 1972, playing in a resident band before taking to the stage at Tiffanys in Shrewsbury.

Brian Stone from Oswestry with one of his poem books .

His studies took him to Trinity College of Music in London, studying orchestral percussion with Michael Skinner, principal percussionist at Covent Garden Opera House, Andrew Smith of Philharmonia and Michael Baker of Royal RPO.

After moving into teaching fulltime he formed Britain's first drum kit and percussion exam syllabus for the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London.

He has remained an examiner for the Guildhall for 17 years and for the LCM for nine years. In 1988 he began seven years with the Shropshire Music Service and instigated the Shropshire Schools Percussion Ensemble, gaining qualified teacher status.

Brian has appeared at Theatre Clwyd on over 80 occasions and now plays in several bands and orchestras as well as conducting nine percussion ensembles.

Centre to close for a week as its timbers are treated

OSWESTRY'S town centre tourist information centre will close for a week later this month to allow the historic building to have its timbers treated.

The building on Church Terrace dates back to the 15th century and was once a grammar school.

It now houses the tourist information centre as well as a coffee shop and an exhibition area allowing for displays to be set up.

All year round displays feature events of local interest from schools, Oswestry Societies, individual artists and craftspeople.

by Iain St John

Town councillors were told of the timber treatment work at their recent amenities meeting were told

A report from facilities manager Glenys Davies said the work had been agreed by councillors at a meeting in January and it was agreed to treat the timber at the centre for woodworm and fungal decay.

Essential

The report said: "This work is essential to preserve the historic building and will start the week commencing January 27.

"The work is planned to be undertaken in three days, the building will be closed during this time and for an additional three days on completion of the treatment for the chemicals to clear.

"Town council manual staff will be required to help move equipment and exhibitions within the building.

"The kitchen will be sealed off as this is in the extension and not affected by the work."

The report said the work to treat all internal and external timbers and would cost £1,850 and a budget of £1,000 had been set aside for any defective timbers found in the course of the work.

The council report also outlined the number of visitors to the tourist information part of the centre towards the end of this year. In September there were 916, 156 email and 141 telephone inquiries.

Renowned choir on quest for recruits

A WORLD famous male voice choir is on the lookout for more members.

Despite enjoying global success and working with some of the biggest names in music, the Froncysyllte Male Voice Choir still sees itself as first and foremost as a community choir.

Practising locally twice a week the choir, which has many members from the Oswestry area, is looking for more singers.

The choir has topped the classic music albums charts several times, performed around the world, played in front of royalty and appeared on TV on numerous occasions.

But spokesman David Jones said their success should not put anybody off joining up.

He said: If they can hold a tune and can give the time, because it can be a big commitment, they are more than welcome.

"They will make 60 friends immediately and have a great experience.

"We are just a normal community choir with our youngest member, 15-year-old Ian Birch, from Oswestry and our oldest member is 86, so we have a real mix."

He added: "Our next performance will be on Valentine's Day at a church in Speke, near Liverpool, and we have various other appointments lined up."

Charity seeks shark divers

A CHARITY is looking for daredevils willing to come face to face with dozens of sharks and snappers.

The Muscular Dystrophy Campaign is planning a sponsored shark dive at the Blue Planet Aquarium in Cheshire on March 23 and is asking fundraisers from Shropshire to join in.

The charity challenge is aimed at scuba-diving beginners and participants can bring along spectators to spur them on. Once in the water, divers will have the chance to rub shoulders with an array of underwater creatures, including sand tiger sharks, lemon sharks, nurse sharks, stingrays and shoals of jacks, grunts and snappers.

All scuba equipment will be provided and training will be given by fully qualified instructors.

For details, or to sign up contact Charles at the charity regional fundraising office on (01244) 536551 or e-mail **northwest@muscular-dystrophy.org**

Citizenship award for students

Jumping for joy, from left, Zoe Holt, Charlie Woolhouse and Alyana Nonan.

STUDENTS at a secondary school have carried out a range of projects to earn a citizenship award.

Sixth formers from The Marches School attended the National Citizenship Service (NCS) Graduation Evening in Telford where they received certificates signed by the Prime Minister.

Their activities began in October with a residential trip to Bala where, through a variety of physical, personal and creative challenges, they learned about leadership, communication and team work.

In December, the 30 students enjoyed a cake decorating session with pre-school children and handed out presents at the Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

Forensic scientists to study skull's age

FORENSIC scientists have yet to determine the age of a skull found near Oswestry two months ago.

A large police operation was launched when a shooting party came across the grim remains during a pheasant shoot on the Sweeney Estate south of Oswestry at the beginning of November.

An area at Sweeney Mountain was cordoned off after a dog went into woodland to retrieve a pheasant and emerged with part of a skull.

Specialists will carry out carbon dating on the skull, thought to be some years old. But police said there had been no news from the scientists.

At the time of the discovery, Detective Inspector Mark Bellamy said it was likely to be several weeks before the results of carbon dating were known.

"It appeared to be part of a human skull, believed to be that of an adult male."

School team wins

YOUNG public speakers from Oswestry pitted their talents against each other in the annual Rotary Club Youth Speaks Competition. The intermediate contest was won by the team from Moreton Hall School, Weston Rhyn.

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Warm feelings towards the very special Winter Moth

IF you're a driver in the winter countryside, as many of us are here in rural Shropshire, there are few things that inspire a sense of irritation more than mud and rain.

I needn't extrapolate on the annoyance of washing one's motor before embarking on a brief but mucky journey and returning to realise that your vehicle is just as dirty as when you decided to wash it prior to your outing.

In the summer things are scarcely better on the roads. By day dust prevails and by night, it's a massacre of moths that chaotically bombard the windscreen.

I happen to rather like moths and squirm and cringe my way through a summer night's drive. But at least for all us lepidopterists (butterfly and moth fanciers) winter does bring a blessed relief from that particular form of insect genocide. Or does it?

Reason

You may well have noticed during our reasonably mild winter, that there are still many suicidal moths on our roads by night. Winter is traditionally not a time for fervent insect action and yet some do prevail, but how and why?

As usual in nature there is a good reason for everything. Winter Moths (there is actually a species un-enterprisingly called the Winter Moth) are, far from a mere splat on the windscreen, something rather special.

They may be a drab grey-brown to look at, but in actual fact they possess something not found in any other insect; warm blood. Okay, I've exaggerated slightly there but for a group of animals largely confined both by scientific nomenclature and in general lifespan by their inability to regulate their own body temperature, thus declaring themselves "cold-blooded", winter moths buck the trend.

ON THE WILD SIDE
by Ben Waddams

They join only a handful of insect species worldwide who are able to "thermo-regulate"; the very process which makes mammals and birds, you and I "warm-blooded". (I wouldn't suggest you read it if you're prone to falling asleep, but there is a book called *Hot Blooded Insects* by Bernd Heinrich available from a very few good bookstores.)

So what is the trick to thermoregulation? For moths it is all in the thorax. The wing muscles can be revved, seen by the human eye as a feverish shuddering of the entire insect, thus warming up the moth without it actually leaving the ground.

The amount of energy produced in flight also allows for more than just flying; it too can by syphoned off in order to heat the insect.

You'll even be able to accurately sex a winter moth, for only the males fly. The females are virtually wingless and instead of killing themselves on Shropshire's roads, will instead sensibly climb the nearest fruit tree and wait for a male to find her. When mated, she will lay her eggs on the leaves of the tree and the caterpillars will hatch in the spring.

You may forgive me for not reading Heinrich's book from cover to cover, but because I have not, I can merely assume that the females still have muscular and thermoregulatory powers over their wing stumps and therefore achieve the same trick as the males, just without the wings. Because of their habit of laying their eggs on fruit trees, winter moths can be a pest to fruit growers, but fear not, there are a couple of nifty tricks to try.

When mated, the female moth will lay her eggs on the leaves of the tree and the caterpillars will hatch in the spring. *Picture: Philippe Mothiron*

One can either employ a greasy band around the bottom of one's fruit tree or best of all, wait until the spring and let the early nesting Blue Tits feed their young on Winter Moth caterpillars. Nature always has a good reason for everything.

Unlike most other moths in Britain which fly during the warmer summer months, the mottled grey winter moths are on the wing from late October to the end of January.

Ben's original artworks are available in Callaghan's Fine Paintings, Shrewsbury.

Friends of station in campaign for work

CAMPAIGNERS say they hope to see improvements to disabled access at a railway station on the Shropshire/Welsh border carried out in a matter of months.

The Friends of Chirk Station say funding for the £1.2 million project was agreed 2011 but the work has still not started.

They say they are hopeful the work will be done in March, describing their campaign for the improvements as a "constant battle".

The friends group adopted the station 10 years ago and has worked since then to improve the facilities.

Arriva Trains Wales has said it is looking to make some upgrades to the station next year.

It said the work is due to begin in March as part of the Department for Transport's Access for All scheme.

Christine Ashford from the group said the work would be warmly welcomed by the organisation and by users of the station.

Messy service

A MESSY church service will be held at Whittington Church, near Oswestry, on January 26 at 4pm.

With a theme of "craft, candles and cake", the afternoon will include activities followed by a short service with songs and a story.

Donation of £1,200 given to hospice

THE organisers of several social events which took place throughout 2013 have thanked supporters for helping to raise more than £1,200 for Hope House Children's Hospice.

VJ Lonsdale, from PurpleFish in Oswestry, said the events included live music evenings, wine tasting and dances.

She said: "We have been raising funds for Hope House Children's Hospices, with all profits from our events going to them.

"We had a goal of reaching £1,000 and we're delighted that we raised a total of £1,224, so thank you to all of you who came to events and helped us smash our target."

More events are being organised this year. The first two events of the year will be an open mic in Wilsons, Church Street, Oswestry, on January 24 and a Quiz Night at The Miners Arms, Morda, on February 21.Visit **www.purplefish.org.uk**

Craft sessions

CRAFT sessions are being held at Whittington Castle, near Oswestry, every fortnight from Sunday, January 26, from 11am to 3.30pm.

For more information please call (01691) 662500 or visit **www.whittingtoncastle.co.uk**

CHRONICLE

Pictured left to right: Kate Howell (Agency Owner), Harriet Fallon (Senior Customer Consultant) and Daniel Graham.

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Making Friends

TEXT IN NOW AND CHAT TO LOCAL PEOPLE. SEND: CHAT26 TO : 80098 (T&C'S BELOW)

Women seeking men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

ABBA girl blonde lookalike, size 16, attractive, bubbly, OHAC, seeking solvent, refined, handsome guy with full head of hair, 5ft 9ins plus, professional and courteous. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 409151**

NEETA Black beauty, classy, intelligent 21yrs, loves to enjoy life, have lots of fun and be spoilt, give me a call. Any age, looks and status. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 409101**

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box No: 408297**

HI I'm Jo, first timer, newly divorced perfect size 10, blonde, attractive, tactile and looking to fall in love again. Age unimportant, dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 409089**

SUSIE 32yr old nurse who likes cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine and spending quality times with great company, if you feel the same pls get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 408877**

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. **Tel No: 0905 002 1952 Box No: 366019**

BABS 27yrs slender with dark haired passionate Italian who loves to dance, eat out, looking for nice n/s male to spend quality adult time with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 407943**

BUBBLY 60 plus lady, slim, fair hair, comfy in jeans and leather jacket, seeks similar male for friendship etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 408859**

SUSIE, seeks fifty shades of grey with guy any age but must be discreet, call and I will explain why. **Tel: No. 0905 002 1953 Box No: 407321**

JOANNA 34, in need of tlc, wining, dining being treated like the princess I am, looking for sugar daddy, that someone special to love me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 408869**

MARIA gorgeous outgoing bbw 27, good fun, caring, romantic, looking for that special someone to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 408733**

KIM attractive single lady new to area looking for meet new friends and maybe a new love interest. I have many hobbies and am interesting to know, pls call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 408489**

TAYLOR attractive very busty curvy black female looking for fun times with open-minded male who is also looking for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 408311**

BETHANY 25yr old blonde, slim size 10 with great personality, looking for nice guy to share my life with, single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 408253**

KIRSTY blonde blue eyed size 12 nurse, enjoys cosy nights, driving, holidays, socialising, WLTM broadminded male for adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 409259**

BLACK female, 45, seeking older gent, 60 plus who knows how to look after a lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 407787**

KATH blonde independent female, employed with OHAC looking for fun and laughter with likeminded nice easy going male, any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 407955**

TRACY slim dark haired beauty, petite, hardworking career, enjoys dancing, nights out, WLTM loving male who can make me laugh for an adult relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 409419**

JANE attractive, seeking male for fun and friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 403807**

SHARON very attractive British black lady, sexy size 6 looking for white male to fall in love with. Beautiful people can be lonely too. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 409263**

MID naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you won't be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 409109**

ANITA very attractive black female, seeking mature white/Asian man to enjoy uncomplicated relationship with no ties. Any age, pls contact me, I'm very lonely. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 408505**

HI I'm Pam, cuddly, attractive, self-sufficient, employed, looking for similar young looking, sincere male for hopeful ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 407933**

FEMALE many interests, seeks male, 40-55 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 408537**

28YR old female, seeking male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 408639**

MIXED raced lady, 34, widely travelled, seeking gent, 30-40 for romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 408429**

68YR old lady, likes gardening, meals out, days out, looking for sincere gent to share time with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 408413**

JENNY single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 408285**

CHRIS blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 407615**

ATTRACTIVE female, young 49, 5ft 7ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, genuine, loyal, easygoing, GSOH, seeks tall, handsome male, 40-50 for fun times, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 406135**

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 363428**

62YR old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 394106**

CAROL 36, looking for older experienced gent 50-70yrs for fun times only, discretion assured and expected. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401853**

MICHELLE lonely singleton, fit/slender, passionate, easy-going seeks male to cook for and generally spoil rotten in exchange for great companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 407501**

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REPLY 22123456 ***hi get in touch...***

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Men seeking women

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6FT male, medium build, brown eyes, dark hair, fit, likes walks, football, holidays, country drives, seeks nice bubbly lady with many interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 409851**

PAUL 55, 6ft 2ins, intelligent, down to earth, kind, genuine, honest, seeks female, 50-60 for relationship, many hobbies. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 409783**

DAVE 54, seeking female, 40-51 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 409839**

JOHN 59, 5ft 8ins, OHAC, GSOH, seeks lady, 46-55, likes meals out and in. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 403273**

MARK 6ft, blue eyes, slim, dark hair, honest, loving, caring, down to earth, likes sport, music, cinema, meals out, seeking special lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 409803**

SINGLE white 40's male, looking for strictly no strings adult fun, any age/race/looks, genuine callers. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 409613**

LOCAL businessman, seeking special friend for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 409585**

SAM seeking lovely lady for great times likes sports, good standard of living, looking for some fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 409527**

ATTRACTIVE male, 48, 5ft 8ins, GSOH, loving, genuine, seeks attractive female, single mum welcome, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 409471**

PETE 6ft 1ins, likes body building, kick boxing, seeks female for love and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 409451**

MASON single parent, seeking female for no strings fun times, 30-45. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 409443**

MALE likes nights out, holidays, seeking nice female for friendship, fun and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 409363**

GARY 40, tall, dark hair, seeks female, 30-50 for fun and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 409207**

GENEROUS male, 6ft, GSOH, likes music, DIY, seeks attractive lady to spoil and pamper. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 409019**

FUN loving male, 47, lots to give, looking for genuine lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 409159**

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THE ARTS

01691 668094

Mosaics are a stepping stone to class opening

by Iain St John

THEY were such a hit at Shrewsbury Flower Show that they sold out all of their stock.

Now leaders of a project which sees people in touch with mental health services make mosaics is opening its doors to the public for the first time.

Members of the Project Group in Oswestry will run a weekend mosaic workshop later this month after mosaics by its members sparked a huge amount of interest at last year's Flower Show.

Group bosses say this year the organisation will be widening its services and, for the first time, it will be running workshops open to the public.

The first public workshop will run over the weekend of January 18 and 19 and will focus on creating a mosaic garden stepping stone.

Giftware

The group runs on a Tuesday to Thursday from its premises at Cross Street in Oswestry. It has up to 50 members, all of whom have been in touch with mental health services and it works largely on art commissions for the public and private sectors. It also provides workshops and has developed a range of giftware Designs in Mind.

Social business manager Catherine Wilks said: "Last year we decided to go more into retail and we took the mosaics stepping stones to the Shrewsbury Flower Show. They proved to be very popular and we sold out. People were interested in how we made them so we decided to hold a workshop open to the general public to show them."

Kits including instructions are also available to buy for people to continue with their newly-developed skills at home or to give away as a creative present.

For details call (01691) 655140.

Bridget Evans and Mike Parry, ready for the mosaic workshop.

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GIG GUIDE

01691 668094

Alt-folk four-piece ready to rock Oak

IF you're looking for a new band worth watching then head down to The Royal Oak, Welshpool, as alternative folk rock four piece The Innocent will be performing on Friday night.

Hailing from Oswestry the band is made up of Adam Howes, Kate Mason, Sam Wainwright and Ben Picken. Describing themselves as an above average band, their music is melancholy-fuelled folk in the vein of Bon Iver or Sun Kil Moon.

Formed in 2011, the group has started to gain momentum with the release of their self titled EP, which is available from the band's website.

It will be their first performance at The Royal Oak, so check them out and give them a warm welcome. The gig starts at 9pm and is free entry.

One of the best cover bands in the area The HMV Band will be playing at The Lowfield Inn, Marton on Friday.

The band was founded in 2002 by Mike Holloway who handles guitar and vocal duties, with the rest of the line-up being filled by Marc Swain, Pete Lamb and Steve Latrine.

Between the four of them they have over 80 years worth of gigging experience and it shows in their live performances.

The Innocent are due to perform at The Royal Oak.

The band has a pretty prolific repertoire to draw from, with over 100 songs in their musical arsenal and, if you can think of it, they can probably play it.

Eclectic

As you can imagine you can expect an eclectic setlist, with a versatile mix of music spanning a number of different genres and bands.

The gig starts at 8pm and is free entry. The Valleys Film Society will showing indie gem Frances Ha at Llanfyllin High School on Friday. Released in 2012, the film stars Greta Garwig as Frances Halladay who tries to follow her dreams in New York City, despite having no money or accommodation. It starts at 7.30pm.

Kinokulture will be screening the critically acclaimed documentary Cutie and The Boxer this Saturday.

The film centres on the 40 year marriage of "boxing painter" Ushio Shinohara and his wife Noriko and deals with themes of creativity, love and sacrifice.

Having received rave reviews across the board the film has already been shortlisted for the Academy Award for best documentary.

The film is being screened as part of Kinokulture's 'Out of the Box' season.

It starts at 7.30pm with tickets costing £3 for adults and £2 for under 16s.

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2005 05	MERCEDES ML 270,CDI IN SILVER, LEATHER, 7 SEATS, ACC, ELECTRIC, SEATS	£7995
2006 06	KAWASAKI ZR 750 IN BURNT ORANGE, 10700 MILES	POA
2008 58	FORD FIESTA 1.6 CDTI S 3DR IN RED 79000 MILES	£4995
2005 55	MERCEDES E320 CDI IN SILVER, ACC, LEATHER FSH	£7495
2005 05	BMW 318 SE COUPE, BLUE 55000 MILES	£5495
2003 53	FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC 64000 MILES AIR/CON, ALLOYS	£1995
2008 58	RENAULT MASTER LWB HIGH ROOF 92000 MILES	£5995 +VAT
2002 51	SEAT IBIZA 998 CC 55000 MILES 5DR	£1995
2008 08	MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER ELEGA DIESEL 7 SEATS, SAT NAV, LEATHER	£10750
2011 60	MERCEDES 350 SLK IN WHITE BLACK LEATHER AUTO 25000 MILES	£17495
2011 11	NISSAN DUKE 1.6 ACCENTA PREMIUM IN BLACK 38000 MILES	£9995
2004 54	MERCEDES SL 500 IN SILVER RED LEATHER, 26000 MILES	£16995
2011 61	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 CDTI VAN IN SILVER, 71000 MILES	POA
2007 57	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.9CDTI 3DR WITH EXTERIOR PACK IN BLACK, AIE CON, ALLOYS	£4995

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MARKETS

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Welshpool livestock market

Monday January 13

OTMS (80)

An increased of 80 over thirty month cattle, realised an average of 119.15 pp/kg for the older cows. The Briarwood Products limited Prize of £25 for the highest priced older cow goes to G & H Jerman, Tynyrwtra with a British Blue cow weighing 733 kg realising £1158.14. A Limousin cow weighing 730 kg from J Parry, Esgairweddon realised £1138.80. Another Limousin cow from D Langford, Gaer, weighed 768kg, making £1136.64. The younger cows topped 169 pp/kg averaging 131.05 pp/kg, with a Limousin cow from D Langford, Gaer weighing 677 kg making £1144.13. An under 72 months Charolais cow from E J Evans, Pen-y-graig weighed 735 kg and realised £1080.45. An aged Limousin bull from T H & ME & E J Jones, Plas Coch weighing 971 kg came to £1165.20. Under 48 months heifers averaged 132 pp/kg, with a Limousin heifer from A Rees & Son, Tynllwyn weighing 613 kg making £1183.09.

FAT CATTLE (19)

An increased entry of 19 fat cattle averaged overall 213.17 pp/kg. 3 top quality heavy heifers presented by GW & BA Haynes, Trefnant Isaf weighed 512 kg, 513 kg, and 548 kg achieved 260 pp/kg, 251 pp/kg, and 245 pp/kg respectively. GW & BA Haynes, Trefnant Isaf received the Briarwood Products Limited prize of £25 for the highest priced pence per kilo on the day. A medium weight Limousin steer presented by J Corfield & sons, Fairfield weighing 519kg making 236 pp/kg. Others to 213 pp/kg from R E & E J Rowlands, TyCam. Mr Rowlands also presented a heavy weight Limousin steer making 218 pp/kg. Two young Charolais bulls presented by D E Wozencraft, Mynydd-llys, weighing 673kg and 569kg realised 177 pp/kg and 166 pp/kg.

PRIME HOGGETS (4397)

A seasonal entry of 4397 prime hoggets, averaged 178.16 pp/kg.

Super Lights (28) to 153 pp/kg from C Davies, Cwmairog. Others to 136 pp/kg from E Pryce Jones & Son, Clegyrnant. Average of 143.24 pp/kg.

Lights (280) to 182 pp/kg from A J & JC Daniel, Abergwydol Farm and D W & L E Morgan, Lower House. Others to 181 pp/kg from T H Davies & Son, Clegyrddwr. Average of 167.72 pp/kg.

Standards (996) to 203 pp/kg from B E & B E Langford, Llettymeibion. Others to 201 pp/kg from D E Morgan & Co, Cefntwlch. Average of 177.87 pp/kg.

Mediums (1956) to 210 pp/kg from T H Vaughan & Son, LLanrhaeadr Y-M. Others to 205 pp/kg from R T & J Edwards, Llechwedd YstraD. Average of 178.26 pp/kg

Heavies (979) to 184 pp/kg from I E Roberts & Son, Maesdyfnant. Others to 176 pp/kg from G Jones, Dolcoion. Average of 165.03 pp/kg

Over Weights (125) to 166 pp/kg from D T A Williams, Upper Bolbro. Others to 159 pp/kg from F M & S A Thomas, Frongoch Hall. Average of 149.43 pp/kg.

CULL EWE (2436)

An entry of 2436 sold to a trade reflecting recent Mondays with the plain and less meated ewes well sold. Cull ewes topped at £110 from D R Owen & Sons, Sandilands Farm, also £100 from the same vendor. Others to £82 from B E & B E Langford, Llettymeibion. G W Eaton, Plasgwyn topped the cull rams at £84 closely followed by £79 from R P & S E Wilde, Middle Sylfaen. An overall average of £45 was realised on the ewes and £55.41 for the rams on offer.

STORE LAMBS

Store Lambs: We have seen an increased entry of 636 store lambs this week gaining an average price of £54.30; an improvement to last week.

TH Turner achieved the top price of the day for texel x tup lambs of £72 with theave lambs achieving a top price of £70 for Suffolk x lambs coming from D S Humphreys & Co, New Mill.

G W Jones, Henfryn were some Texel x, mixed and clean lambs making a top price of £67. Mixed with tup lambs gained a top price of £61.50.

An increase of 208 in lamb ewes were forward this week with a top price of £96 was achieved for Mule yearling and two year old ewes coming from T P Jerman, Church Farm.

Same again next week with store lambs being sold from 10.30am followed by in-lamb ewes.

STORE CATTLE

An entry forward of 140 Store Cattle met with a sound trade especially in light of the fact the fat cattle have been less in recent weeks. Overall the stores have returned an average of 222ppkg whilst heifers were at 211ppkg. With a full compliment of regular buyers in attendance, bidding was consistent from start to finish.

Top Prices are as follows

Steers

Simmental (x1) £1260 560kg from TH & ME & EJ Jones, Plas Coch

Charolias (x1) £1240 590kg from E T Jerman & Co, Cefngoleugoed

Salers (x2) £1230 540kg from TH & ME & EJ Jones, Plas Coch

Limousin (x3) £1200 541kg from TH & ME & EJ Jones, Plas Coch

Heifers

Charolias (x2) £1135 512kg from I Evans & Son, Hendreseifion

Simmental (x2) £1060 477kg from TH & ME & EJ Jones, Plas Coch

Limousin (x2) £1000 451kg from I Evans & Son, Hendreseifion

Leading prices per kilo

Store Steers

Charolias (x1) 248.80ppkg 410kg from SM & GD Jones, Rhiwhiriaeth

Hereford (x1) 243.90ppkg 205kg from JHS Maclean, Pentreheylin

Limousin (x2) 238.10ppkg 420kg from JP & CM Jones, Maesterran

Store Heifers

Limousin (x1) 250ppkg 370kg from JR Phillips & Son, Bank Farm

Blonde D'Aquataine (x2) 226ppkg 292kg from E Rees & Co, Church House

Simmental (x2) 222.20ppkg 477kg from TH & ME & EJ Jones, Plas Coch

DAIRY CATTLE

An entry of 14 dairy cows and 4 bulling heifers sold to a grand trade once again. Leading the way at £2020 was a stylish heifer from N M Roberts & Partners, Oak Mount Farm Wrexham, with another from the same seller selling for £1900.

Presented by T G Phillips, Burgedin were three Pedigree Holstein Friesian heifers which sold for £2000 (2) and £1900.

Two Askew Reece sired heifers from N Samuel, Lower Ystrad sold for £1700 and £1580. A Riverdane Sizzler sired heifer from K S Jones & Son, Lane Farm made £1720.

Lewis Partners, Green Hall sold two heifers for £1560 and £1610. A 3rd calver from G R Jones, Pentre farm made £1500. 4 bulling heifers from W R Taylor & Son, Talwrn, sold to a top price of £720 to average £670. A breakdown of all prices achieved were as follows: £2000 + 3 lots; £1800-£2000 2 lots; 1600-1800 3 lots; 1400-1600 4 lots; 1200-1400 1 lot; <1200 5 lots.

Forthcoming Sales.

Tuesday 28th January – January Store Cattle Fair

Thursday 6th February – Pedigree Charolais Cattle

Monday 10th February – Store Cattle to include Organics and Weanlings

Tuesday 25th February – February Store Cattle Fair

Tuesday 11th March – Store Cattle to include Organics and Weanlings

Tuesday 25th March – March Store Cattle Fair

Oswestry cattle auctions

Wednesday January 8

FAT CATTLE: (114)

Back to normal after a long Christmas break with a big number of quality cattle forward to sell. Top slots hit 269p for Heifers, 231p for Steers and 222p for Bulls. Highest price in the lump was £1488 for a Heifer. A bottom book of 118p for a lean friesian bull and an overall average of 198p. If you have cattle to sell please contact the auctioneer Jonathan Evans on 07971 002650 or the market office.

Young Bulls (33) Overall Average 177p.

Medium Bulls (17) Average 175p (£910/head) Selling to 222p from R E Hughes Parc

Heavy Bulls (16) Average 179p (£1125/head) Selling to 210p from A H M Lea & Sons Lee Bridges

Steers (30) Overall Average 187.5p.

Medium Steers (6) Average 204p (£1090/head) Selling to 231p from R E & B E Lewis & Son Gribin

Heavy Steers (24) Average 184p (£1185/head) Selling to 220p from G Watkins Brynfa

Heifers (51) Overall Average 219.5p

Medium Heifers (11) Average 207p (£950/head) Selling to 269p from J W Jones & Partners Pantglas Isa

Heavy Heifers (40) Average 222.5p (£1255/head) Selling to 259p from D C & S E Edwards & Son Plas

A good entry and good trade to go with it, but there was plenty of quality in front of us. Please keep the cattle and quality coming. We CAN sell them!! Thank you for your continued support

FAT HOGGETS: (2668)

Demand on the day was very very steady with the continental bred standard hoggs being in the strongest demand with many 34kg to 39kg hoggs from 185 – 190p/kg. However the more traditional and native breed types were in the late 150 to early 160p/kg. 395 light hoggs levelled at 169p/kg with D Morris Parkside selling 30 hoggs to £59.50 (198p/kg). 953 standard hoggs averaged 177p/kg with the top price from G L & C E Davies Tybrith with 38.5kg making £79.80 (207p/kg) The 838 mediums averaged 177.5p/kg with the top call of 207p/kg from M & S Jones Lower Forest weighing 42kg made £86.80. The heavy hoggs averaged 161.5p/kg with the overweights up to £89 on more than one occasion.

Superlights to 156p average 132.5p Lights to 198p average 169p, Standards to 207p average 177p, Mediums to 207p average 177.5p, Heavy's to 175p average 161.5p, Others to 158p average 147p. Overall average 176.5p.

FAT EWES: (967)

A much improved entry in terms of size and quality met with another 2 tier trade. Plainer ewes were again in demand with plenty of Welsh ewes in excess of £40. Stronger ewes were again harder to sell with over fat ewes especially difficult to place. Nevertheless an overall average of £40 was achieved with a top price of £74.50 for a cracking Texel ewe from G E Jones, Treflach. A mixed show of 19 rams averaged £51 with a top price of £71 for a tup from D I Roberts & Son, Brooks.

Please Note: All sheep entering the market must be tagged.

CALVES: (76)

An excellent quality entry selling to much keener demand for all classes with a ring full of buyers in attendance today. Limousin Bulls topping the sale at £372 from Messrs Evans Halton Farm £348 £335 & £325 from Messrs Andrew Neuadd Uchaf £320 from Messrs Moore Oaks Farm. British Blue Bulls to £345 from Messrs Evans Halton Farm £335 from Messrs Griffiths Gerlan £330 from Messrs Wildbore Carreghofa. Charolais Bulls to £355 from Messrs Andrew Neuadd Uchaf. British Blue Heifers to £345 from Messrs Jones Ladyhill Farm £340 from Messrs Owen Tanycoed £260 & £255 from Messrs Wigley Drenewydd. Hereford Heifers to £255 from Messrs Owen Llwydiarth £250 from Messrs Evans Glaniwrch. Simmental Heifers to £240 from Messrs Owen Llwydiarth. Friesian Bulls to £155 from Messrs Evison Rhydycyffin £132 from Messrs Lewis Jones Grange £132 from Messrs Gillman Birch hall £98 from Messrs Foulkes Maesteg £78 from Messrs Jones Maesderw £78 from Messrs Evans Glaniwrch.

U72 & CULL COWS: (99)

An excellent entry of 99 cattle met with a very good trade for all types and classes of cattle. Demand was very strong and better than anticipated. Top price Cow 176p/kg, Heifer 184p/kg, Steer 188p/kg and Bull 143p/kg

Cows

Limousin to 153p average 134.61p/kg

British Blue to 176p average 131.21p/kg

Friesian to 127p average 101.41p/kg

Others to 130p average 112.42p/kg

Heifers

Friesian to 130p average 123.80p/kg

Limousin to 166p average 159.62p/kg

Steers

Limousin to 188p average 179.08p/kg

Bulls to 143p average 121.26p/kg

99 Cattle average 119.28p/kg

If any vendor has changed their Farm Assured details please notify the market office 01691 653547 so our data base can be updated.

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We make sure they get into the RIGHT hands!

SEAT Leon SC FR

Graham Breeze
Motoring writer
graham.breeze@shropshirestar.co.uk

THE industry has been predicting big things for SEAT and the new Leon has helped the company smash sales figures in the past year.

With 45,312 cars registered, SEAT sold 6,514 more cars in 2013 than it did in 2012 – its previous best ever year.

That's a 16.8 per cent improvement and is SEAT's fifth consecutive annual sales rise, giving the company a 2 per cent UK market share.

The success is underpinned by the third generation Leon achieving the model's best sales ever, with 14,302 in 2013 and the news comes in the same week that Leon was named "2013 best family car" by CarBuyer magazine.

The SC is the first ever three-door Leon, following on from last year's relaunch of the revamped five-door, and will be joined early this year by an estate.

It's fashionable these days to brand three door cars as coupes and it's fair to say that the Spaniards have achieved that with the stylish SC FR 1.4TSi on test.

In fact this Leon is completely new with a lower roof and stylish tailgate enhancing the profile and despite being 35mm shorter than it's five-door sister there's ample room inside for four.

It's difficult to fault the car with a good balance of performance and economy linked to sportiness and comfort, emphasising just why the younger driver is being attracted to the SEAT brand.

Generating 140ps it'll get you from a standstill to 62mph in 8.2 seconds and has a top speed of 131mph while able to keep CO2 emissions down to an impressive 119g/km level. On top of that the test model averaged 54.3mpg.

Being built on the same platform as the Golf means you get good handling and plenty of grip with the FR benefitting from SEAT's Drive Profile Selector – giving a choice of throttle and steering response depending whether you select eco, normal or sport options.

'It's difficult to fault the car with a good balance of performance and economy linked to sportiness'

All this is controlled through a neat touch screen system which is the centrepiece of the fascia which is the most disappointing aspect of this newcomer. SEAT have gone for the minimalistic approach and it looks boring.

The Leon has generous specification from base level. Every Leon SC comes with air conditioning, sports-shaped front seats, steering wheel mounted audio controls, seven airbags, remote central locking, anti-lock brakes and electronic stability control.

SE trim adds, among other things, 16inch alloy wheels, front fog lights with cornering function, cruise control, leather steering wheel and gear knob, XDS electronic differential lock, and hill hold control.

Top-of-the range Leon models come wearing SEAT's iconic FR badge, and only the more powerful engines in the line-up qualify. All FR cars get 17-inch alloy wheels, LED rear lights, dual-zone climate control, dark tinted rear windows, and FR-specific front- and rear bumpers.

The Leon also comes with full-LED headlights, which are optional on SE and FR cars providing a powerful light beam that's closer to natural daylight than any other sort of headlamp – a really attractive addition.

SEAT has one of the youngest customer profiles in the business, with an average age of just 38, and the Leon SC so it's little wonder this model is resonating with the company's typical buyers.

TESTED

SEAT Leon SC FR
Model: 1.4TSi 140PS
Top speed: 131mph
0-62mph: 8.2 seconds
CO2 emissions: 119/km
Combined fuel: 54.3mpg
Price: From £16,670

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Drivetime

Hyundai i10

The new generation Hyundai i10 has been crowned 'Car of the Year' by car review website, CarBuyer. After scooping the 'Best City Car' category, it was awarded the overall title with the judges praising its quality, refinement, style and value.

Steve Fowler, editor-in-chief, Auto Express and CarBuyer, said: "The Hyundai i10 is small in stature and huge in talent. It offers so much for such a small price with real big car attributes – it's well built, spacious and with loads of luxury kit on board.

"It makes you wonder why you ever need to pay more for a new car."

CarBuyer.co.uk was launched just three years ago yet is already established as one of the UK's most respected sources of car buying advice.

Tony Whitehorn, president and CEO, Hyundai Motor UK, says: "We are tremendously proud that the new generation Hyundai i10 has been crowned CarBuyer's 'Car of the Year' for 2014.

This is Hyundai's second major CarBuyer win after the i30 received the same accolade in 2012. This award is a true testament to just how far the Hyundai brand has come in recent years."

It was a double win for Hyundai as the Santa Fe also won the 'Best Large SUV' category beating many other more established brands.

Buyers of the new generation i10 will be offered the highest levels of comfort and safety equipment, with many features more common to segments above.

Available equipment such as automatic climate control, heated leather steering wheel and cruise control with speed limiter provide bigger-car comfort, while safety features include standard-fitment stability control and six airbags.

As with all Hyundai's passenger cars, the new generation i10 is backed by the brand's industry leading five year unlimited mileage warranty, which offers amongst the best warranty cover in the industry as judged by Auto Express. This includes five years unlimited mileage warranty, five years free roadside assistance and five years of annual vehicle health checks, which give customers ultimate peace of mind.

Civic Tourer

Designed and developed in Europe, the British built Civic Tourer delivers distinctive styling, class-leading utility, advanced technology and an impressive balance between fuel economy and performance.

Prices will start from £20,265 on-the-road for the entry level 1.8 i-VTEC S model.

The Civic Tourer is available with a choice of two engines; the 1.8 i-VTEC petrol and the new Earth Dreams Technology 1.6 i-DTEC diesel and four trim levels. The entry level S grade includes features such as Bluetooth Hands Free Telephone (HFT), DAB Radio, USB connectivity and 16 inch allow wheels. In addition the SE Plus, the next level up, has rear parking sensors and 17 inch alloys, whilst SR customers will benefit from the new world first rear Adaptive Damper System (ADS), front heated seats, HDD Navi and privacy glass. Those who opt for the top EX grade will receive headlight washer, smart entry and start capability, sunglasses holder, interior blue ambient lighting and Bi-HID headlights.

The new 1.6 i-DTEC diesel engine delivers exceptional fuel economy to help keep running costs low without compromising power and performance. A range of 817 miles on one tank of fuel and CO2 emissions from just 99g/km keeps the car exempt from annual vehicle excise duty. Honda's 1.8 i-VTEC petrol engine will be available in both manual and automatic transmission and provides 142 PS and 174 Nm of torque, delivering 45.56mpg on the combined cycle and from 149 g/km of CO2 emissions.

The space inside the Tourer defies its dimensions. Despite being the lowest and most compact estate in the segment and being just 235mm longer than the Civic hatchback, the new Tourer offers a class-leading 624 litres of boot space . Utilising Honda's unique Magic Seat system, the rear seats can be pulled down to create a completely flat load area with 1668 litres of capacity up to the roof lining,

The significant luggage space is supported by the Tourer's newly developed rear Adaptive Damper System (ADS), a world first. The system automatically adjusts the rear suspension damping force designed to enhance stability and comfort under the varying load and driving conditions.

Another first is the option to add Honda's new suite of safety technologies to a C-segment car. Based on the philosophy of 'Safety for Everyone', this new suite of sensor based active safety systems uses a combination of cameras, short range lidar (laser radar) and radar, to deliver a high standard of safety in all conditions, giving drivers and passengers complete peace of mind.

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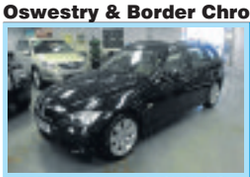

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SPORT

Action from COBRA's narrow defeat to Bala sees (from left): second row Rhodri Evans jumping up in the line-out, fly-half Rhodri Davies making a tackle and No8 Aled Davies passing to Alwyn Williams. Pictures: Lynne Owen.

COBRA slip out of cup – but give the leaders big scare

COBRA gave high flying Bala a run for their money – but could not stave off a narrow 11-10 defeat in the North Wales Cup.

Although the loss effectively scuppered any chance of reaching the semi-final of the Plate competition, the Meifod could at least take plenty of positives from their display as they prepare for the second half of the season.

They ran in two tries, with No 8 Aled Davies marking his return from a hand injury by crossing the line for one of the scores along with winger Tom Wilde.

League leaders Bala hit back with a try and two penalties, but COBRA had chances to have won the game following a late spell of pressure, with youth team winger Harry Jukes going close to a winning score.

"It was a real pleasing performance against a top side, and we could have won it in the end," said coach Matt Griffiths.

COBRA have a quick chance to settle the score when the sides meet again on Saturday, this time in the Swalec League division one (north) as the Llanfair Caereinion side battle to move up the table.

Without any action last week, **WELSHPOOL** are back on the pitch with a tricky trip to third placed Menai Bridge as they bid to climb away from the lower regions of the Swalec League division three (north).

In the same division, Llanidloes stepped up their challenge by running in six tries in their 37-17 victory at improving Bangor.

Following their 23-17 success at Rhos the previous week, Llani made the most of being the only side in league action last Saturday as they moved to within one point of leaders Harlech, although they have played two more games than their title rivals.

Buoyed by their recent run of form, they will be in good heart when they head to lowly Holyhead on Saturday as they bid to maintain their title pursuit.

Llani notched a record breaking 181-0 win at home to the Anglesey side earlier in the season, but are braced for a sterner test in the return.

GOLF RETURNS

WELSHPOOL

Winter League: 1 Richard Evans 29pts, 2 Ian Spencer 28pts, 3 Darren Pugh 28pts, 4 Martin Hughes 27pts, 5 Ian Davies 25pts

Rabbits & Tigers: 1 Paul Butterworth / Mike Gittins 29pts, 2 Mark Roberts / Martin Ward 28pts, 3 Mark Williams / Peter Cadwallader 27pts, 4 Dean Aldridge / Clive Jones 26pts

Eagles maintain cracking start to year with victory

AFTER gaining their first away win of the season the previous week, Oswestry continued their encouraging start to the New Year with a 29-7 home win over Port Sunlight in the South Lancs and Cheshire Two.

On top from the start in a game played in excellent spirit, the Eagles were unable to capitalise on their early opportunities despite good retention of possession allowing them to work their way up the pitch.

RUGBY
by John Bridgwater

A penalty from Dan Williams got the hosts pup and running, while several more chances arose as the half went on, including several excellent mauls from good line out ball, only for the openings being frustrated by small errors.

Now camped in the opposition 22 metres, Oswestry won a penalty for stamping in the ruck by the Port Sunlight captain who was deservedly yellow carded. Williams found touch and the Eagles once more pressured the visitors, winning a scrum on the five-metre line.

Scrum

Dan Samuels picked up from the back of the scrum and powered over for the first try of the game, converted by Williams.

However, a mistake from the kick-off swung the momentum back to Port Sunlight, and poor discipline by the home side, giving away three penalties in a row, allowed the visitors to cross the line for a converted try on half time to reduce the arrears to 10-7.

Tactical changes by head coach Gaz Barrett gave the Eagles new life in the second half, and Andy Merrett soon made his presence felt with a great carry, running over one would-be tackler and handing off another to get Oswestry deep into the visitors half. Quick ball for scrum half Nick Clay from the ruck gave Gaz Hughes the opportunity to burst through a gap, and he passed to the supporting Jamie Luckett for him to score an excellent try in a man of the match display, converted by Williams.

Good work by Tom Thorpe from the kick-off saw captain Andy Smith make an excellent carry to get the Eagles back into Port Sunlight's half, and the hosts once more applied heavy pressure, until they won a good penalty.

Williams found touch once again and clean lineout ball gave Rich McFie a chance to make a great carry, and Olly Wilford picked up from the ruck and powered through two defenders to touch down. The conversion was missed. Once again from the kick off, the Eagles worked their way into the opposition half, and great hands by the backline gave Jack Fox the chance to make a great line to burst through a gap and round the fullback to score another excellent try, and again Williams added the extras.

The Eagles continued to press for the rest of the game, and Nick Howland was unlucky not to get on the score sheet at the close, with a pass just out of his reach. Oswestry could reflect on another good win at home, and will look to maintain the momentum on Saturday when they welcome Ellesmere Port to Granville Park in the semi-final of the Cheshire Bowl.

■ Mid-table OSWESTRY II were edged out 17-11 at Old Bedians in the North West League division four (south).

Coming through – Oswestry's Gaz Hughes holds off a challenge against Port Sunlight. Pictures: Ian Sheppard.

Putting the boot in – Oswestry kicker Dan Williams converts the opening try

Hold on – Dan Samuels goes on the attack, dragging the Port Sunlight tackler with him

PLACINGS

Welshpool Dominoes

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A
Sun Inn	14	10	4	62	36
Cock P/A	14	10	4	58	40
Pinewood C	14	9	5	56	42
G/Dragon Butt B	14	8	6	51	47
Powis Arms P/D	14	7	7	50	48
Waterloo	14	9	5	50	48
Cock A	12	7	5	47	37
G/Dragon Butt A	14	5	9	43	55
Pinewood A	13	5	8	41	50
Compasses	14	5	9	39	59
Social Club	13	4	9	37	54
Celts	12	3	9	33	51

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	F	A
Talbot	13	10	3	60	31
Bowling Club	14	9	5	60	38
Breidden	14	9	5	58	40
The Real Railway	14	8	6	53	45
Pinewood Dragons	13	8	5	52	39
Westwood Wand	13	8	5	51	40
Kings Head	14	7	7	49	49
Muriels Bunch	14	6	8	43	55
Westwood	14	5	9	43	55
Angel	14	6	8	42	56
RAF Boys	14	5	9	42	56
Wellington	13	1	12	21	70

Stonehouse Brewery Oswestry & District Dominoes League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Black Lion B	12	6	5	1	43	29	17
Cross Foxes	12	6	4	2	44	28	16
Plas Yn Dinas	12	7	2	3	41	31	16
Black Lion A	12	7	0	5	44	28	14
Station	12	5	4	3	40	32	14
Penybont Inn	12	5	4	3	39	33	14
Bradford Arms	12	5	2	5	36	36	12
Top White Lion	12	4	4	4	33	39	12
Horseshoe	12	5	1	6	36	36	11
White Lion	12	1	8	3	34	38	10
Barley Mow	12	3	2	7	26	46	8
Railway Tavern	12	2	2	8	27	45	6
Black Horse	12	2	2	8	26	46	6

White Lion Llynclys 3, Black Lion B 3; Bradford Arms 2, Station 4; Black Lion A 2, Plas Yn Dinas 4; Railway Tavern 1, Cross Foxes 5; Horseshoe 2, Top White Lion 4; Penybont 3, Barley Mow 3;

Shropshire Chess League

DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	F	Pts
Newport A	8	5	1	2	26	11
Telepost A	8	5	0	3	25.5	10
Shrewsbury A	8	5	0	3	21.5	10
Wellington A	8	4	2	2	21	10
Priorslee Lions A	8	5	0	3	20.5	10
Condover & CS A	8	3	2	3	19.5	8
Telford A	8	1	1	6	14.5	3
Priorslee Lions B	8	1	0	7	9.5	2

DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	F	Pts
Ludlow A	7	5	0	2	22	10
Oswestry A	6	4	1	1	18	9
Telepost B	7	4	0	3	18.5	8
Shrewsbury B	7	3	1	3	19	7
Newport B	7	2	3	2	17.5	7
Wellington B	7	3	1	3	17.5	7
Telford B	6	2	2	2	16	6
Telepost C	7	0	0	7	6.5	0

DIVISION 3

	P	W	D	L	F	Pts
Newport C	8	5	1	2	19	11
Shrewsbury C	8	4	3	1	19	11
Telford C	7	5	0	2	19	10
Condover & CS B	7	4	2	1	17.5	10
Oswestry B	8	4	0	4	16.5	8
Priorslee Lions C	7	3	1	3	15	7
Telepost D	6	0	1	5	7	1
Newport Juniors	7	0	0	7	2	0

Wheatland Indoor Cricket League

Division one: Grasshoppers 114-5 (P. Elton 22, Joe Yapp 15, A. Johnson 15 no), Alberbury 88-4 (M. Jones 25 no, J. Harrap 17, S. Jarrett 19 no). Grasshoppers won by 26 runs; Shelton 103 (B. Chambers 38, D. Wright 2-32), Willey 104-1 (S. Walters 25 no, M. Brown 29 no). Willey won by 5 wickets; Shifnal 96 (J. Edwards 22, G. Collins 20, M. Griffiths 3-25), Condover 57 (M. Griffiths 18, A. Hodgekiss 18, D. Bradburn 2-28, J. Mountford 2-14). Shifnal won by 39 runs.

Division two: Cound 85-5 (G. Lawrence 29), Cae Glas 87-4 (N. Morris 30 no, G. Candler 16 no). Cae Glas won by 2 wickets; Church Stretton 91-3 (J. Garmston 22), Bomere Heath 93-1 (A.Flann 25 no, S.Simpson 16 no).Bomere Heath won by 5 wickets.

DIVISION 1

	P	W	T	L	Pts
Condover	7	6	0	1	36
Grasshoppers	7	6	0	1	36
Shifnal	7	5	0	2	30
Alberbury	7	2	0	5	12
Willey	7	2	0	5	12
Shelton	7	0	0	7	0

DIVISION 2

	P	W	T	L	Pts
Cae Glas	7	6	0	1	36
Bomere Heath	7	5	0	2	30
Cound	7	5	0	2	30
Grove	6	2	0	4	12
Beacon	6	2	0	4	12
Church Stretton	7	0	0	7	0

English Clubs Rugby Championships

SOUTH LANCS/CHESHIRE 2

	P	W	D	L	BP	Pts
Manchester Medics	17	16	0	1	15	77
L'pool Collegiate	17	14	1	2	12	70
Bowdon	17	14	0	3	11	67
Ormskirk	16	13	1	2	9	63
Southport	17	11	0	6	7	46
Vagabonds	17	9	0	8	8	44
Oswestry	17	8	1	8	9	43
Moore	17	6	1	10	8	34
Port Sunlight	17	6	1	10	8	34
Orrell	17	5	1	11	7	29
Marple	17	5	0	12	6	26
Dukinfield	17	3	2	12	5	21
Ramsey	17	4	0	13	2	18
Wallasey	16	0	0	16	3	-7

SPORT

Strugglers so unlucky in spirited fightback

LLANRHAEADR remain rock-bottom of the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance despite staging a spirited display in their 2-1 loss at Conwy Borough.

Gareth Sudlow and Alan Bull had Conwy two goals up midway through the first half, but Josh Wood's penalty on the hour kept the villagers in the hunt.

The visitors showed plenty of resolve under new boss George Hughes, and should really have come away with the points.

After Wood had converted his spot-kick having been fouled, Llanrhaeadr had their chances through Iwan Matthews and Matty Jones.

A rattled Conwy were reduced to 10 men when winger Ellis Healing was shown a red for a wild challenge on newcomer Lewis Jones, but they managed to survive a nervy finish.

A winger from Cefn Druids, Jones had impressed before his untimely injury, while the team also included the left-sided Ian Edmunds from Newtown and centre-half Tom Bailey from Four Crosses.

Boosted by the performance, Llanrhaeadr chase much-needed points in Saturday's crucial home clash with basement rivals Llanidloes Town.

The weather again frustrated fifth-placed GUILSFIELD, whose clash at Buckley Town was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

Llanidloes eased their basement worries after maintaining their revival with a crucial 4-2 win at fellow strugglers Rhayader Town.

Two early goals from Gareth Mansell, his first from the penalty spot, put the Daffs on course for the victory that lifted them three points clear of the drop zone – and has now taken their points tally to 10 from their last four outings.

After Mansell's brace on 10 and 17 minutes, Mike Collister's penalty on 36 minutes gave Rhayader hope after home keeper Arron Warrick had been harshly dismissed.

Despite being forced to reshuffle with defender Dan Lewis going in goal, Llani held firm and the visitors were also reduced to 10 men in the last 15 minutes with defender Gavin Samuel dismissed for his second caution.

Quick-fire goals from Tom Sparey and Will Thomas in the last 10 minutes then settled the issue, before Collister bagged a last-minute consolation with his second.

Fourth-placed Caersws stayed in touch of the leading pack after securing a 2-1 win at Porthmadog, with Jake Parr netting his first goal for the club after Graham Evans had got the first.

Saturday's Cymru Alliance fixtures Buckley Town v Flint Town Utd, Caernarfon v Porthmadog, Guilsfield v Rhayader Town, Holyhead Hotspur v Llandudno, Llanrhaeadr v Llanidloes Town, Caersws v Penrhyncoch, Penycae v Conwy Borough, Rhydymwyn v Cefn Druids.

Four Crosses undone by goal machine Gary

FOUR CROSSES were undone by some lethal finishing from Gary Meredith who helped himself to four goals as Llansantffraid Village ran out convincing 5-2 winners in the local derby at Foxen Manor.

It was a dream start for the visitors who, looking to boost their fortunes in the Spar Mid Wales League division one, opened the scoring after just 18 seconds when Meredith found the net following a long ball upfield.

That lead, however, was short lived when, in the eigth minute, Alex Gunn played a ball into Dylan Ellis who delivered a cross where Jamie Evans was on hand to flick home an equaliser.

The goal seemed to give the Crosses some much needed confidence and they enjoyed a good spell of possession with the best chance coming as a ball over the top found Chris Aitken but a nudge in the back went unpunished denying him a one-on-one.

The Village then scored somewhat against the run of play, winning a corner off a clearance before Dale Lloyd delivered the set piece which evaded everyone apart from Lewis Cody who got the final touch.

Meredith was then on hand to extend the visitors' lead with a free header from a deep cross in the 30th minute and things could have been much worse had the home side not been saved by the crossbar moments later.

Crosses looked for a way back into the game, Steve Lalley failing to get on the end of an Alex Gunn cross and Llansantffraid keeper Rhys Jones saved superbly from a Dylan Ellis effort.

Ellis, however, did manage to find the back of the net just four minutes before the break with a superbly taken free-kick.

The home side were dealt a blow immediately after half time when the impressive Aitken was forced off with an ankle injury and just moments later there was a big turning point when defender Lalley, who had so far had a torrid afternoon, was given his second yellow card leaving the home side with 10 men for the remaining 40 minutes.

Ffraid capitalised just past the hour mark when Meredith won the ball from Owain Willcock and ran through to fire across the keeper and complete his hat-trick.

Mark Dutton went close at the other end but fired wide when well placed after a one-two with Jamie Evans as Crosses looked to try and reduce the deficit.

However, it was Meredith who grabbed the final goal of the game when beating his man and finishing into the bottom corner of the net for his fourth and Llansantffraid's fifth goal of the afternoon to seal a welcome three points that avenged a home defeat earlier in the season.

Four Crosses manager Nick Popyk praised the visitors while also blasting his inconsistent side after the defeat.

"We just weren't good enough when it mattered," he said. "We must now pick ourselves up and prepare for a tough second half of the season."

■ Lloyd Chainey and Seb Siddi enjoyed their first game in charge of Four Crosses Reserves with a last-gasp 3-2 win at high flying LLANYMYNECH in the JT Hughes Montgomeryshire League division two.

Ryan Kenny gave the visitors the lead before striker partner Dan Jay extended the scoreline.

The home side, who were in third position in the table, found their way back into the game with two goals before Jay was on hand to head home a Lee Dutton corner in the last minute to give Crosses a local derby victory.

Early exit as Saints' cup hopes sink like a Stone

ST MARTINS bowed out of the West Midlands League division one cup at the first hurdle with a 3-1 exit at Stone Old Alleynians after failing to capitalise on their possession.

Lying second from bottom in the league table, the Saints were looking to give themselves a timely boost in the cup, but failed to turn their fortunes despite a creditable display.

The visitors fell behind following a corner on 11 minutes but just four minutes later they were level when Josh Sumner's flag kick found the net despite the keeper getting a hand to the ball.

Stone restored their advantage before half-time through Bill Thornley, but St Martins continued to play the better football after the break only to be found wanting in front of goal with top scorer Karl Bailey out through work.

With virtually the last kick of the game, Stone made it 3-1 when Nick Buckley converted his spot kick following a foul by keeper Paul Foster.

The Saints host Wem on Friday night at the Venue Park Hall (7.45) as they return to league duty with plenty to do if they are to lift their relegation fears.

■ WESTON RHYN'S hopes of pushing up the Mercian Regional League premier division table were frustrated as their home clash with Wellington Amateur reserves was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

After their 3-2 victory over Prees in the league cup the week before, Rhyn would have been keen to get on the pitch, so will now look to maintain their winning start to the year when they head to Telford Juniors on Saturday.

MORDA United also had no game in the same division, with Craig Rogers' side now hoping to keep up their title challenge when they return to action at home to lowly Allscott on Saturday.

Defiant United dig in to put brakes on runaway leaders

FOOTBALL
by John Bridgwater

LLANFAIR UNITED became the first side to take points off high-flying Llandrindod Wells when drawing 0-0 at the Spar Mid Wales League division one high-fliers.

Rhys Stephens' team were well worth a share of the spoils in a tight game of few chances on a heavy pitch, with the manager more than happy with the display.

"Although there were no goals, both sides played well and it was a very good game of football," he said.

"We may have just snuck it, but we were not too disappointed with the draw."

The result sees them slip into third place on goal difference, while Llandrindod would be happy enough as they remain five points clear at the top, and with games in hand.

BERRIEW boosted their challenge as they edged into second position with a 3-1 home win over in-form WATEROO ROVERS, courtesy of a fine hat-trick from Karl Seliearts.

Rovers had taken an early lead through Steff Rodgers but the hosts hit back to take a 2-1 advantage into the break.

Despite having Elliot Jones sent off for two bookings in the space of a few minutes, Berriew were not to be denied and sealed the points five minutes from time when Seliearts completed his hat-trick.

Waterloo are now down to fourth on goal difference, one of three teams on 37 points.

CARNO stayed in touching distance of the leaders after winning 3-1 against Aberaeron, Peter Rees scoring two and Tony Evans the other to lift their side up to fifth.

Boosted

MONTGOMERY, in eighth, boosted their prospects as they consolidated mid-table with a 5-1 home hammering of Tywyn Bryncrug.

■ WELSHPOOL TOWN crashed out of the Central Wales Cup with a 4-2 third round exit at Llandysul on a day when little went right.

The day started badly with the team's mini bus suffering a burst tyre on the long trek to Ceredigion, meaning they arrived just before kick-off.

The visitors did take the lead through Martyn Ziemann, then found themselves 2-1 down before Ian Jones levelled.

Llandysul, however, got their noses back in front before half-time and, despite Pool having plenty of the game in the second period, they could find no way back as a fourth goal from the hosts late on sealed their fate.

There were better fortunes for DYFFRYN BANW who kept their flag flying courtesy of a relatively comfortable 5-1 passage at Cardigan.

Aberystwyth University booked their place in the fourth round with a 5-1 victory gainst Hay St Mary's with goals from Dan Pugh, Chris Warden, Matt Perry, Barney Tierney and substute Jack Unwin.

Builth Wells also progressed 5-2 against Penparcau, but needed extra-time before seeing off their visitors.

Joel Metcalf and Liam Ryland were on target in normal time, with Neil Davies, Gethin Jarman and Kevin Lewis on the mark in the extra 30 minutes.

FC Oswestry net nine in Mercian goal glut

It's there – Stefan Ivanov slots home a Graeme Kirkham cross as FC Oswestry Town embark on a nine-goal rout against Wrockwardine Wood in the Mrwecian League. Pictures: Ian Jones.

Seven goals in second half as side hit top spot

FC OSWESTRY Town stormed three points clear at top of the Mercian Regional League division one after handing out a 9-0 beating to Wrockwardine Wood Juniors at Park Hall - with seven of the goals coming in the second half.

With previous leaders Bishop's Castle losing 4-1 to Wroxeter Rovers, Town took full advantage to maintain their title push after returning to the pitch following a three week break.

Hungry for goals from the off, a strong Town line-up started brightly as they dictated the play and were unlucky not to take an early lead when striker Stefan Ivanov was ruled offside after a smart finish.

Ivanov, however, was pivotal as the hosts made the breakthrough after being fouled on the right edge of the box and up stepped Joe Evans to curl the free kick into the top corner.

The second goal soon came with Ivanov slotting home from a Graeme Kirkham ball, with a two-goal lead remaining until half time.

The second half saw Town turn up the pressure and it was Ivanov again with a glancing header from a Joe Evans free kick who made it 3-0.

Ivanov then turned provider to set up Graham Dyke to smash the ball home from 10 yards, while goal number five soon followed with a fine finish from winger Kirkham who latched onto a Scott Bright through ball.

Then came the strike of the game when Bright dropped his shoulder to lose his marker before smashing the ball home from 30 yards.

Ben Williams make it seven with an assist from new signing Richard Morris, Bright then netted the eighth with a smart finish, and the rout was completed when Morris slid in to despatch the ball home from another Kirkham cross.

Manager Nick Maguire was naturally very pleased with the performance which took Town back to the top of the league.

On Saturday, the high fliers look to consolidate pole position when they travel to Clee Hill in the league, weather permitting

Mid table OSWESTRY VILLA, meanwhile, shared a 3-3 draw at home to Meole Brace.

Joe Evans, whose fine free kick put FC Oswestry Town on course for a 9-0 win against Wrockwardine Wood

Hartshorn's hammer is Oak winner

OAK INN came out top 3-2 against The Keys in a replayed game in the Roche North Shropshire Sunday League after their first meeting was void after both teams played ineligible players.

Despite trailing to a goal from Alan Ellis early in the second half, Rob Shone equalised for The Oak whose Harry Davies then gave them the lead before Dave Hartshorn made it three with the goal of the game with a 25-yard free-kick.

Keiran Jones pulled one back for the Keys, but it was not enough.

Title chasing CROSS FOXES won 1-0 at LODGE INN to avenge their only defeat this season when losing 2-1 at home.

This time a Kyle Stevenson second half goal separated the teams in a fairly even match, an effort worthy of the points with a low drive into the bottom corner.

MALPAS' Cheshire Cup Tie against Spital Vaults and DUDLESTON HEATH's league game against TAVERN both fell victim to waterlogged pitches.

Next Sunday sees Cross Foxes visit Malpas as the top two teams in the league come face to face.

Sunday fixtures: Athletic Market v The Keys, Malpas v Cross Foxes, Tavern v Oak Inn, Lodge v Dudleston Heath.

Saints ladies out of cup

THE New Saints ladies were soundly beaten as their run in the FA Women's Cup came to an end as they succumbed 7-0 at home to Stoke City ladies in the second round proper.

The Potters raced into a two goal lead after only six minutes through Jamila Palmer and Megan Bowyers.

Chantelle Gallagher made it three after finding the bottom corner from the edge of the box and midway through the first half, Palmer completed her brace to give her side a four goal advantage. Moments before half-time substitute Jodie Foxhall added a fifth after a defensive mix-up to ensure that Stoke went into half time in total charge.

Shortly after the restart, Natasha Tasgal smashed in a sixth goal and moments later they nearly added a seventh but Kate Huntbach produced an excellent last ditch tackle to prevent another goal scoring chance.

Despite the score, The Saints continued to push forward and Laura Morris forced Alice Langstone into a very good save from a tight angle.

With ten minutes left substitute Megan Haynes forced the Stoke goalkeeper into another good stop before Morris shot wide from inside the box.

In the last minute of the game Louise Roberts sealed an emphatic win for the Potters with a brilliant long range effort.

SPORT

Rugby
Oswestry win but COBRA just short
Page 46

Football
FC Oswestry hit nine in goal spree
Page 47

New boss Hughes is braced for six-pointer

LLANRHAEADR face a real six pointer at home to basement rivals Llanidloes Town on Saturday as they battle for survival in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance.

Although adrift at the foot of the table, the villagers could take some heart from their performance at Conwy Borough last weekend where they lost 2-1 despite a rousing display.

Gareth Sudlow and Alan Bull had Conwy two goals up midway through the first half but Josh Wood's penalty on the hour kept the villagers in the hunt.

The visitors showed plenty of resolve under new boss George Hughes, and should really have come away with the points against a rattled Conwy who finished with 10 men.

But it was not to be, but Hughes was more than satisfied with his team's efforts as he continues his quest to bolster the squad in the coming weeks.

He has already brought in three new signings, winger Lewis Jones has joined from Cefn Druids, but could face a few weeks out after being injured by a bad tackle on his debut.

Also joining is Ian Edmunds, a left sided full-back or midfielder from Newtown, and centre half Tom Bailey from Four Crosses.

The rain again frustrated on-form **Guilsfield** whose clash at Buckley Town was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

Boss Matt Burton will be hoping for better luck with the weather when his side host lowly Rhayader Town on Saturday as they look to consolidate their top five position.

Morda look to close gap after lay-off

MORDA United saw their title hopes improve in the Mercian Regional League premier division – without kicking a ball in anger.

With the Weston Road side without a league game, the chase for honours remains wide open with leaders Oakengates Athletic losing to Whitchurch Alport who took over top spot.

United remain fifth but have games in hand over the leaders, with Craig Rogers's men hoping to capitalise on Saturday when they return to duty after an extended Christmas break at home to lowly Allscott (2pm).

Llanymynech Golf Club's new captains have driven into office. Seen at the club are (from left): Ian Logsdail (vice-Captain), Harry Edwards (junior captain), Colin Ames (seniors' captain) Sue Kime (ladies' vice-captain), Bev Gibbs (vice-president), Ann Hindmarch (ladies' captain), Steve Meredith (captain) and Ken Evans (president).

Four Crosses boss ready for long haul after losing to rivals

NICK Popyk admits his Four Crosses side face a tough second half of the season in the Spar Mid Wales League division one after suffering a disappointing 5-2 home defeat at the hands of local rivals Llansantffraid.

The latest reverse, in which Gary Meredith scored four times for Ffraid, leaves the Crosses in ninth, two places below their visitors.

Down to 10 men in the second half after Steve Lalley was dismissed for two cautions, manager Popyk admits his side need to improve after what he described as their poorest display of the season. They visit Bow Street on Saturday.

"Mezza (Gary Meredith) has shown that having an in-form clinical striker can make all the difference and Ffraid fully deserved their victory," he said.

Second placed Llanfair United, who became the first side to take points of Llandrindod Wells when drawing 0-0 at the unbeaten leaders, bid to maintain their challenge at improving Montgomery on Saturday.

Paul Griffiths is still suspended, but James Davies returns after missing last week and Ross Frame could also be back.

Meanwhile, Andrew Hughes and Daniel Jones both face fitness checks after picking up knocks against Llandrindod.

Llansantffraid Village, buoyed by their five goal beating of Four Crosses last weekend, bid to keep up the good work at Dyffryn Banw.

LEADERS TNS READY TO GROUND AIRBUS

by John Bridgwater

AFTER drawing a blank in midweek, The New Saints go into Saturday's top of the table showdown with Airbus UK at Park Hall ready to strengthen their grip on the Welsh Premier title chase.

A frustrating and rain-drenched Tuesday saw the Saints forced to settle for a 0-0 stalemate against Carmarthen in Port Talbot, although the draw now takes them five points clear at the summit.

And director of football Craig Harrison is anxious his side at least maintain that advantage when they host second placed Airbus UK at Park Hall on Saturday (3.45pm) in the final game before the league splits.

Victory would take TNS an imposing eight points clear but that advantage would be trimmed to just two points should they suffer their first home loss of the campaign.

Unbeaten

"The lead could be eight or down to two, or five if we draw, so there is a lot riding on Saturday's game," said Harrison.

"But everyone's looking forward to it, we're very strong at home, and we want to make sure we finish the first half of the season well.

"Our home form has been terrific this season, we're unbeaten with nine wins and a draw.

The Saints will start as firm favourites as they look to get back to winning ways against an Airbus side that has lost their previous six visits to Park Hall.

Harrison admitted he was frustrated not to shake off a plucky Carmarthen on Tuesday night, but felt it was another point gained.

"At the time I was disappointed, but on reflection now it was another valuable point and a clean sheet in difficult conditions," he said.

"We controlled the game from start to finish, had a lot of possession, but didn't do enough to break them down while they were happy to play for a draw."

Hockey sides both held

OSWESTRY Ladies are now unbeaten in five games in the Cheshire Womens Hockey League division two after opening the year with a 0-0 draw at Golborne Ladies. Next up is a home clash with Crewe Vagrants on Saturday (2pm).

Oswestry's men secured a 4-4 draw at Bangor University in their first North Wales League game of the new year.

Eagles flying high with Granville Park victory

Oswestry want more of same in Bowl semi

OSWESTRY'S rugby players will be out to maintain their winning ways on Saturday when they welcome Ellesmere Port to Granville Park in the semi-final of the Cheshire Bowl.

It's been a flying start to the new year for the Eagles who, after their first away win of the campaign the week before, ran in four tries to see off Port Sunlight 29-7 last Saturday to consolidate their position in the top half of the South Lancs and Cheshire Two.

COBRA have a chance for revenge as they bid to halt high flying visitors Bala in the Swalec Welsh League division one (north).

The Meifod men were edged out by the league leaders 11-10 in the North Wales Cup just last week, but the manner of their positive display gives hope they can put the record straight in the return.

Without any action last week, WELSHPOOL return to duty at Menai Bridge as they seek to climb the Swalec Welsh League division three (north) table.

Reach for the sky – Oswestry's Dave Richardson gets up to win a line-out during the impressive 29-7 victory over Port Sunlight at Granville Park. Pic: Ian Sheppard.

Pool boss is looking to bring in new blood

WELSHPOOL boss Russell Cadwallader is poised to bring in some fresh blood this week as he bids to revive his side's fortunes in the Spar Mid Wales League division one.

It has been a disappointing last few months, with Pool deducted three points for fielding an ineligible player along with some poor league results, while bowing out of the Central Wales Cup last Saturday with a 4-2 exit at Llandysul.

With his side struggling to score goals, Cadwallader admits he looking to pep up his firepower and could bring in a couple of new faces this week as he prepares for Saturday's home clash with Aberaeron

Fortunes

Although Welshpool went out, there were better fortunes for Dyffryn Banw who kept their flag flying with a 5-1 passage at Cardigan.

Guilsfield's rearranged home tie with Machynlleth will be played on Wednesday, January 22.

Revised fourth round draw: Berriew v Dyffryn Banw, Builth Wells v Knighton Town, Caersws v Carno, Guilsfield or Machynlleth v Rhosgoch, Llanfair United v Llandysul, Llanidloes Town v Penrhyncoch, Llanrhaeadr or Montgomery Town v Aberystwyth University, Presteigne or Llandrindod Wells v Rhayader Town or Aberaeron.

Ties to be played on or by Saturday, February 8.

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